The Weekly Mail.

TORONTO, FRIDAY, FEB. 16, 1877.

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THE WEEKLY MAIL.

THE SPEECH FROM THE THRONE.

It is not a thing to be looked upon with favour that each succeeding year brings with it a further lengthening of the Speech from the Throne. It is much to be regretted that in the present instance increased prolixity is found united with a painful poverty of promised measures. Time was here when the Speech was almost wholly occupied in indicating the bills to be brought before Parliament. In England this wholesome rule is rarely departed from except when, as at the present time, some great question of foreign affairs overshadows all questions of a domestic kind. We hope to see a speedy return to the good old rule in Canada.

The Governor-General's trip to British Columbia is alluded to. The surveys of the Pacific railway are said to have been pushed forward with vigour, but it is confessed that nothing beyond the surveyors' work has yet been done. Soon after the close of last session we were assured that the Government were about to advertise in England for contractors; but this, like everything else with which this Ministry has to do, has been "postponed." Three years and a half of power, and the steel rails are still rotting on the wharves at Lachine and Victoria!

Reference is made to the Extradition Treaty, and the hope is expressed that a more liberal one will soon be negotiated between Great Britain and the United States. No legislation for the purpose is required in Canada. Some anomalies in the Royal Commission and the Royal Instructions in connection with the question of pardon are indicated, and it is said that steps have been taken towards their amendment. Does Mr. Blake desire to abolish the proceedings in Council which have so long been in force, and leave the question of pardon wholly in the hands, and at the mere *ipse dixit*, of the Minister of Justice? We trust that whatever the contemplated changes may be they will not destroy a single one of the steps which are now required to be taken before the solemn judgments of the Courts can be reversed.

Allusion is made to the works in progress on the canals; to the opening of the Intercolonial railway, and the selection of Halifax as the Winter Port of the Dominion; to the late Centennial Exhibition, and the projected Exhibition at Sydney, New South Wales. In connection with the Centennial the Canadian Commissioners come in for a word of commendation. It is to be regretted that a sentiment so utterly opposed to truth should be put into his Excellency's mouth. It would hardly have been possible to make a worse selection than was made. In the face of the Government's blundering and incompetence, at least silence on their part would have been respectful to the duped exhibitors who have suffered so severely at their hands, as well as to the general public.

The Fishery Commission still lags. The blame is thrown on the United States. Mr. Mackenzie makes an unconditional surrender to the enemy, and seeks by tears and whining to make reparation to the Canadian people for his incompetence. It is a shame and a disgrace that this important matter has been allowed to remain unsettled for so long a time. We are giving millions to the neighbouring Republic without a cent of return therefor.

Indian treaties and cognate matters having been referred to, we come at length to the promised measures of the session. Here they are:

To amend the Joint Stock Company Act.

To amend the law of Life Assurance. (From last session.)

To extend the powers of the Vice-Admiralty Court to the inland waters.

To amend the Customs' laws.

To make the Geological Survey a distinct branch of the Civil Service.

To amend the Weights and Measures Act.

To amend the laws relating to shipping.

Who can glance over this list without having forcibly brought to mind at the first blush the Minister of Justice—Mr. Edward Blake—the Aurora Disturber—the sapient statesman who projected so many measures of reform in his famous Aurora deliverance—the restless radical who, pining for the "purple seas," did not want to belong to a Reform Party which could find nothing to reform! Samson is indeed shorn of his strength! Half a dozen bills to "amend" existing laws! And this is "Reform!" Such a programme is surely worthy the noisiest *fanfares* of the Government press.

As was generally expected the revenue has fallen off a good deal, and it is acknowledged that notwithstanding the efforts of the Government (what they have been we do not yet know) to make both ends meet there is still a deficit. Deficits came in with Gritism, and we have no doubt Gritism will go out with a deficit. This is not the time, however, to consider the financial situation.

Clearly it is the determination of the men now in power to hold the reins as leisurely as possible. Perhaps they see that their end is drawing nigh, and think they may as well take their ease while office and its emoluments are left to them. They have certainly presented to Parliament a most contemptible and meagre bill of fare; and they need not be surprised to see the country taking it as the true measure of their capacity.

CHANGES IN THE PERSONNEL OF PARLIAMENT.

There have been four changes in the *personnel* of the Senate since last session. Tired of public life, Sir Edward Kenny forfeited his seat in that body, and went to the old land to spend the remaining years of his life. The acceptance of the Lieutenant Governorship of Quebec vacated the seat occupied by M. Letellier de St. Just. Death removed Messrs. Perry and Holmes. Mr. Power, jr., has been appointed successor to Sir Edward Kenny, for the seeming good reason that he is the son of his father, Mr. Power, M.P. for Halifax. M. Pelletier, taken out of the Commons, has gone to the Senate, to fill M. Letellier's place. Mr. Grant, of Pictou, only because he was the brother-in-law of Mr. Carmichael, M.P. for that county, has become Mr. Holmes' successor. And Mr. Adam Hope, who has never been in Parliament, has been nominated to the vacancy created by Senator Perry's death.

There will be seven new men in the Commons. Death has removed four of the old members, Hon. J. H. Cameron, Hon. Malcolm Cameron, Mr. Thomas Scatcherd, and Mr. Adam Gordon. Their places will be filled respectively by Mr. D'Alton McCarthy (Cardwell), Hon. T. N. Gibbs (South Ontario), Mr. Colin Scatcherd (North Middlesex), and Mr. W. H. Gibbs (North Ontario). Mr. David Stirton having been appointed Postmaster of Guelph, Mr. Donald Guthrie was elected his successor in South Wellington. By the appointment of Hon. David Laird to the Lieutenant Governorship of Keewatin, his seat for Queen's, P. E. I., fell to Hon. J. C. Pope. And the appointment of Mr. B. E. Tremaine to a Nova Scotia County Court Judgeship, led to the election of Mr. C. J. Campbell in Victoria, N.S.

Out of the seven elections to the Commons since the last session of the Parliament in which a change of *personnel* has taken place, there has been a reversal of the political complexion of four—North Ontario, South Ontario, Queen's, and Victoria; making a gain of eight votes on a division to the Conservative Party in the Commons. The changes in the Senate being by appointment of the Government somewhat strengthen the Ministry in that Chamber.

There have been three changes in the *personnel* of the Administration. M. Geoffrion has been replaced by M. Laflamme, Mr. Laird by Mr. David Mills, and M. Letellier by M. Pelletier.

MR. BLAKE.

When Mr. Blake was in Opposition he contended that a united Cabinet could not be formed by men sinking their past party differences and agreeing to be "good friends;" for although the great questions on which they once differed might be settled, the "eternal principles," whatever they might be, survived. The present Minister of Justice took special pains to make this doctrine clear at the Reform banquet held in this city on the 7th December, 1870. There he contended with much eloquence that although Sandfield Macdonald and his colleagues had formed a Cabinet by forgetting the party quarrels of the past, still it was impossible for them to be a unit, all because of the survival of the "eternal principles." He said:

"On what ground did these men appeal to the country and conduct the Government of the Province? Oh! that they were good friends; that all party differences had been settled. What a mockery upon an intelligent people is that statement! Is it because one question, however momentous, is settled, that the principles which underlie the current of public opinion, and which are continually to be brought into action, die with the settled question? The question is settled, but the principles are eternal and survive."

Let some hon. member of the Ottawa House ask the Minister of Justice to reconcile this doctrine with his position to-day. Messrs. Cartwright and Scott are very good friends with Messrs. Mackenzie and Blake, and the organs declare that all party differences have been settled—but what about the eternal principles? Was Mr. Blake deliberately talking bosh in 1870, or is he acting against his convictions now in forming one of a combination of old-time Tories and old-time Reformers?

There is another point, too, which it will be well to press on Mr. Blake's attention just now. At the banquet referred to he spoke as follows of Sandfield Macdonald:

"But he has formed an alliance with the men who denounced him as unworthy of public confidence and almost of private association in days gone by.

"Has Mr. Macdonald forgotten the stories circulated about him by his present friends? The tales with reference to Mr. Poupore and Mr. DeBellefeuille? Does he not remember that they charged him with attempting to buy the support of Mr. Harwood by tendering an office in the militia to his relative Mr. DeBellefeuille? Does he forget the charge made by Sir John A. Macdonald that he got the support of Mr. Poupore by buying his property? I would like to know how Mr. Macdonald, the sinner of 1864, is the saint of to-day. None of these charges have been retracted, and are yet hanging over his head. So much with reference to the antecedents of the Administration. I ask now what you could expect from such a union, what progeny from such an unnatural alliance?"

If it was wrong for Sandfield Macdonald to associate with men who had brought charges of political corruption against him, which charges had not been withdrawn, is it right for Mr. Blake to make an associate of M. Cauchon against whom the most horrible charges of fraud, misappropriation, and robbery have been brought by the Reform Party, and never to this day either disproved or withdrawn? By what process has the Beauport sinner of 1873 become the saint of 1877? What can be expected from such a union? What progeny from such an unnatural alliance?

The Minister of Justice is an able splitter of hairs; let him be given an opportunity of exercising his skill over these points.

PACIFIC RAILWAY REPORT.

In a supplementary report made by Mr. Sandford Fleming, Chief Engineer of the Canadian Pacific Railway, an account is given of work done up to 31st December, 1876. A complete trial location line, running over a distance of 546 miles, was made from the Provincial boundary, at the summit of the Yellow Head Pass, in the Rocky Mountains, to Waddington Harbour, at the head of Bute Inlet. Where the line leaves Fraser River Valley heavier works than before estimated for will be necessary to give security from floods, entailing considerable additional expense. Unexpected difficulties have been met with in the angle between the Stewart and Fraser valleys, where heavy excavations will be required; but still by using steeper gradients for a few miles much heavy work may be avoided, and several miles of distance saved. In locating the line through the Cascade Mountains very great improvements have been found practicable, and the extra heavy works there will be confined to within a distance of twenty miles, between the twenty-sixth and forty-sixth mile from the head of Bute Inlet. These will consist of heavy rock excavations, with eight tunnels having an aggregate length of barely a mile and a quarter. Between Yellow Head Pass and the Cascades there are six tunnels, making together three-quarters of a mile, so that the total length of tunnelling in the mountain region, of 547 miles, by this route, will not exceed two miles, and this may be still further reduced. The steepest gradients are in the Cascade Mountains, of which 13½ miles are at the rate of 2 per 100, equal to 105.6 feet per mile; but this is in three lengths, with stretches of level between of half and three-quarters of a mile. There are three miles varying from 66 to 84 feet per mile. The maximum gradient on the rest of the line is one per 100, equal to 52.8 feet per mile.

Surveys were made to improve the line branching from the above and touching the water at Kamasqui Bay, on Dean Channel, with very favourable results. By this line the distance from Yellow Head Pass to Dean Channel is 492 miles, or 55 miles shorter than to Bute Inlet. It requires five miles of gradients of from 80 to 90 feet per mile, eight miles of 113½ feet, one mile of 105.6 feet, and fourteen miles ranging from 66 to 92 feet per mile, with a maximum gradient on the remainder of 1 per 100; also thirteen tunnels through rock having an aggregate length of two miles. Kamasqui Bay, which is well sheltered, has fair anchorage on a narrow belt parallel with the shore line, but beyond that the water is very deep. An alternative line to this, fifteen miles longer, has been surveyed, as also another up the Fraser valley, between Yale and Lytton.

Of the two thousand miles of distance from Lake Superior to the Pacific Ocean 681 miles are definitely located, and 226½ miles are under contract. The surveys east of this are not yet completed. In locating the line between the Red River and the summit of the Rocky Mountains, where not already determined, no great difficulties are anticipated.

THE ORANGE BILL.

It is very much to be regretted that the Ontario Government are still set in their determination to refuse an Act of Incorporation to the Orange Body. By the exercise of their party strength in the Legislature they have succeeded in throwing out Mr. Merrick's bill by a majority of ten. Mr. Mowat himself stated that the bill was a transcript of the Act of the New Brunswick Legislature which has lately been adopted in that Province. It would have been wise of our Government to have followed the example of New Brunswick, and removed a bone of contention from the political arena. The tail, however, is still stronger than the head. Mr. Fraser, though muzzled by his chief in the recent debate, is not without his revenge. He could forego the pleasure of making a speech for the greater pleasure of seeing the other members of the Cabinet and nearly the whole Grit Party in the House follow whither he led them. The arrangement doubtless was that Mr. Mowat should say as many agreeable things of Orangeism as he could, that Mr. Fraser should be "mum," but that the bill should be kicked out of the House. It has succeeded, but it does not present the Cabinet in a very enviable light. There sat Mr. Fraser, on the second row of benches, with his sombrero over his eyes, conscious of his power, and yet chafing under a galling restraint. In front of him stood Mr. Mowat addressing the House, declaring that "the principles "of the Orange Society were of a kind "which commended them to every "true patriot," (which was hard on his Commissioner of Public Works), and yet aware that his jerky platitudes came from his lips not from his heart, and that for the sake of his office and his emoluments he had to stow away his principles in his breeches' pocket. It would have brought far more respect to them all if they had allowed the bill to pass.

Notwithstanding the Attorney-General's contention to the contrary, it is certain that the cost of incorporation under the General Act, even if practicable and legally possible, would be immensely greater than under a special Act. Mr. Bethune, who followed the Attorney-General, insisted upon the accuracy of the computation which had been made in this respect. The one course costing $15,000 (some say $30,000)—the other $100—is it any wonder the Orangemen struggle hard for the latter? Orangeman that he is, we wish we could compliment Mr. Robinson upon the honesty of his advocacy of the bill as unreservedly as we can Mr. Bethune. No opponent of the measure could have done more to damage it than the member for Kingston. He scraped—yea, even out of the gutters—every particle of argument which would tell against those who had it in charge. One may well be surprised at the city of Kingston returning as its representative to the Legislature a man who revels in his own filthiness—who sneaks about the Chamber gathering up chance expressions, placing himself in the way of overhearing conversations, and then not only repeats publicly in the course of debate what he had heard, but grossly misrepresents members by putting words in their mouths which they had never uttered. The friends of Orange Incorporation may well pray to be saved from such advocates of their cause. Mr. Fraser himself could not do it as much harm, were his tongue to wag ever so freely.

It must create a painful impression on the public mind that the strongest reason the Attorney-General could give why the bill should not be allowed to pass was that its passage would give offence to the Roman Catholics. We think the Attorney-General exaggerates Roman Catholic sentiment in this respect. There are many Catholics, be their opinions ever so strong, who are willing to grant even to Orangemen the measure of justice they demand for themselves. We yield to no one in our earnest desire to see the Roman Catholics of Canada placed on the same plane as their Protestant fellow-subjects in every possible respect. But we are not prepared to see a large and respectable body of loyal men denied an unquestionable right—the simple right to hold property by provision of law—because even a large majority of Catholics are opposed to it being granted. Nor will the course taken by the Government tend to allay religious bickerings and difficulties; rather will it tend to increase them. There is not a Catholic in Canada, we make bold to say, who would not quietly acquiesce in the passage of the bill which the Legislature has just rejected; and, the Act in force, that which, while it is allowed to remain, will be a standing cause of heart-soreness and trouble, would be entirely removed. We are one with the member for Stormont in this respect.

We do not believe, as has been contended on the Ministerial side, that this bill is brought down year after year only to embarrass the Ministry and their followers. We know to the contrary. We know that if a Grit Government do not pass it, a Conservative Government, when its day comes, will have to face the same question. The Orangemen are in earnest, and with their cause as well backed as it is, they will not rest until they have obtained what they consider to be an act of pure and simple justice.

UNION OF THE MARITIME PROVINCES.

For twenty years the question of the union of the Maritime Provinces has been mooted. That this union was not consummated prior to Confederation has been for every statesman in the Dominion a matter of regret. Now, however, we see signs which may with confidence be regarded as the heralds of this much to be desired evolution. The leading papers urge speedy action. Their appeals are backed by the reason and the necessity of the case. There are lions in the path, but they are lions of that character which do not offer successful opposition to a policy of boldness and determination. Those who remember the discussions which took place on the eve of the union of Upper and Lower Canada, or even those which preceded the great Act of Confederation, will be at no loss for analogies for what is now taking place in New Brunswick and Nova Scotia. There is a like mandate from the necessity of the situation to take a statesmanlike course; there are conflicting interests; there are sectional jealousies; there are doubts, and as in the closing hours of the decade ending in 1840 there is a wave of wise and wide political conviction putting itself against obstacles doomed to disappear. A leading newspaper of Prince Edward Island declares that the union of the three provinces is only a question of time. The proposal, however, at the moment before us is the union between New Brunswick and Nova Scotia. Mr. Blake, whose Government has granted a subsidy to Manitoba, attacked Sir John Macdonald on account of the subsidy given to New Brunswick and Nova Scotia. Those subsidies cease after next July. At that date Nova Scotia will lose $82,698 a year, and New Brunswick $63,000. The Government has refused to extend the time during which these sums would be payable. The loss of such large amounts from the revenue is a circumstance calling for a review of ways and means. The population of New Brunswick is 285,594, and of Nova Scotia 387,808. Each Province has two Chambers, a Lieutenant-Governor, and a large executive. The three Provinces have only a population of 767,394, but each keeps up a court and a large staff of officials; and while Ontario with a population of 1,620,851 has one Lieutenant-Governor, costing $10,000, what do we see in the Maritime Provinces? For half the population we have three Lieutenant-Governors costing $25,000. The cost of administration and legislation is equally disproportionate. If we may use a colloquialism the three Provinces are eating their heads off. The people of those sea-washed regions are enterprising, well-to-do, but they are not rolling in superfluous wealth. Yet they are indulging in legislative luxuries and administrative superfluities which would hardly be prudent if every second man was a Vanderbilt or a Peabody. They, in order to transact a business which would not overtax the energies of a single chamber, have six chambers; three offices where one would be enough; three clerks for each department, which, after the fusion of the three Provinces, would be efficiently attended to by one not over-energetic man. Twice as many members are paid a sessional allowance as would be needed under the proposed change. At present there are twenty-seven Ministers or Executive Counsellors to do work which could be done—witness Ontario—as well by five or six. There are three Queen's printers where one would do, and three times more paper and printer's ink is wasted than is at all necessary.

What is the cause of this? Are the people separated by broad differences of race and religion? By no means. Are they divided by great geographical barriers? On the contrary, New Brunswick, Prince Edward's Island, and Nova Scotia are grouped together more compactly than the British Isles. Nova Scotia and New Brunswick belong to the continent, and the Bay of Fundy, across which a boat can speed like a bird, is rather a highway than a barrier. The same may be said of Northumberland strait, which divides Prince Edward's from the two other Provinces. Thus the only barrier between those fine Provinces is a political one at once factitious and costly. If we wanted an illustration of the present system we should have to go to a household split into three divisions, each having servants of its own, a distinct larder, and rooms carefully bounded off by a well defined exclusive etiquette. By Union the Provinces would save $150,000 a year on legislative and administrative expenditure. A more important gain than even this saving would be the greater probability of getting men in the Assembly and in the Government approaching to the standard of statesmanship. Some have doubted whether local wants would be as carefully attended to. The local press, however, contend that even on this head something would be gained. Where we find large administrative machinery for a small population there we find invariably waste and jobbery. It will, of course, require the insight and instinct of statesmanship to arrive at a just ground of union. But we believe there is in the Maritime Provinces sufficient political tact to overcome every obstacle.

The greatest obstacles will be found to come from the swarm of legislators and office-holders who eat up the Provinces at the present moment. But when it is seen that the choice is between freedom from embarrassment and trampling on the opposition of the Tite Barnacles, between direct taxation and a summary treatment of the parasites of political life, the people will give adequate support to the men honestly desirous of bringing about this great reform. If New Brunswick could get what she wants Quebec would have an argument to enforce a claim which she is anxious to make. In fact there would be a general claim for "better "terms," and if these claims were granted what would New Brunswick gain? She would pay herself by taking out of one pocket and putting what was so taken into another. One New Brunswick journal indeed declares that if subsidies were general New Brunswick, in order to get her share of $63,000, would have to pay $100,000. The time has come to act, and we think action should be prompt and strong. There are nice adjustments to be made, but there are able and experienced men to make them. The moment it is seen that the Rubicon is crossed there will be a lift forward of political thought and hope, and men who have abstained from meddling with the small political teapot of either of the Provinces will evince an interest in the dignified government machinery which will replace three petty Courts and three petty Legislatures. Another advantage is that the united Provinces would have more weight in Dominion councils than they now have, while the Dominion would also gain, because every blow at sectionalism is as good as a new girder to the national edifice. Objections will no doubt be loud and forward. So they would be if the Heptarchy existed to-day in England and it was proposed to change it for the British Constitution. A few short years and the same Provincial rule will span like a rainbow, bay and township and river, from the shores of Rimouski and Gaspe to the Atlantic. Then those who set their face against union would be the first to cry out against any proposal of retrogression.

MR. SPEAKER ANGLIN.

The country is to be congratulated on the fact that the gentlemen now on the right of the Speaker are stern and uncompromising champions of the independence of Parliament. For years Mr. Mackenzie inveighed against the Government of Sir John Macdonald for giving work to Col. Gray, a member of the House, and paying him for it. It was true that Col. Gray was a supporter of the Administration of the day, and hence the money paid him did not influence his vote; but the principle, the eternal principle, was violated all the same. So much renown did the hon. member for Lambton obtain by his vigorous defence of the independence of Parliament in this and Mr. Aquila Walsh's case that he was hailed in his missionary tours through the country as a Hampden, a village Hampden perhaps, but a Hampden nevertheless. For instance he visited Galt on the 25th August, 1871, (see *Globe*), and was welcomed in an address from the local magi which bears the *imprimatur* of that undaunted enemy of corruption, Mr. James Young:

"In common with the whole of that constituent body whose views we are here feebly endeavouring to express, we have long observed your unfaltering devotion to all those great principles which underlie and support wholesome, popular government in any country—honesty of purpose, as well as of conduct in the Executive, &c., *unvarying hostility to everything that tends to fetter or weaken the thorough Independence of Parliament*," &c.

So neat a compliment was indeed due so profound a moralist as Mr. Mackenzie. Years have passed since 1871, six of them in all, but we know the principle which then filled the hon. member for Lambton's great soul is still alive, because it is eternal. He is as sturdy a foe to the corruption of the House by the Executive to-day as he was when he belaboured Sir John Macdonald and held Col. Gray and Mr. Walsh up to public execration. It is a great comfort to know this, because a case of corruption will be brought before the House this session, involving more danger to the liberties of the Commons and of the people than ever was involved in the Gray and Walsh cases combined.

It is admitted, in fact, that in 1875 Mr. Speaker Anglin received from the Government of which Mr. Mackenzie is the head a printing job from which he realized $8,000, just double the salary he is paid for discharging the duties of his high office, without fear, favour, or affection. Mr. Speaker pleads guilty to the main charge, and rests his defence on the ground that he accepted the job and drew the money for it not in his capacity as chief officer of the Commons, nor as a member of that body, but as a St. John, N.B., printer. His is a subtle plea; but we rejoice to think that it will avail the desperate culprit little in the eyes of the Premier. A weak Christian politician like Mr. Mowat might possibly be induced by party exigencies to hide the Speaker's shame and the Executive's disgrace in a vote abolishing at once the charge, the plea of guilty, and the fearful and wonderful defence, but the country looks to Mr. Mackenzie confidently, trustingly, confidingly for the swift and signal punishment both of Mr. Anglin and the Ministry which "tempted him that he did eat" of contracts in which, by the Independence of Parliament Act, he was forbidden from sharing.

STRIPLING SENATORS AND GOVERNMENT CONSISTENCY.

There are two theories about the Senate. One theory, and we believe the right one, is that the Senate should be not only a reward for public service but that in it should be assembled men of great experience, who, no longer anxious or able to take part in the stormier sphere of the Commons, might yet do good work for the country. The other theory is that one dear to the heart of such politicians as Mr. Mills and Mr. Brown, however widely they may differ as to the manner of the Senate's constitution. The latter gentleman at one time thought it was a fit place for old women; we are almost afraid to quote Mr. Mills' disparaging language, for Mr. Mills does not possess the gift of being at once vigorous and refined. Now on neither of these theories can we account for one of the recent elevations.

As our readers are aware, young Mr. Power, of Halifax, was a few days ago raised to the Senate. He had previously been a Government clerk at Halifax, and it seemed clear enough to everybody why he was made a "peer." His father wished to be Senator. Mr. Mackenzie was afraid to risk contesting an election at the moment. The father put his foot down—"If you won't make me "Senator, let my son have the honour." Mr. Power doubtless remembered how in the good old times in England infants of two and three years of age used to be made colonels and generals, and Mr. Mackenzie did not see why he should not follow the good but unfortunately obsolete precedent. The scandal made such a noise on the shores of the Atlantic that Mr. Power *père* wrote a letter explaining what were the extraordinary and cogent claims of his son, chief among which was the fact that he had something like a year ago written a letter to a newspaper, signed "Ultramontane," in favour of "Ultramontanism." If Mr. Mackenzie has been converted to Ultramontanism he ought to say so. A Baptist in favour of the Syllabus will be a novel religious phenomenon. Up to the present, however, Mr. Mackenzie has appeared as the opponent of Ultramontanism. His Party in Lower Canada is the Rouge Party. His colleague, M. Laflamme, went down to Jacques Cartier and denounced the interference of the priests in elections, taking the same line as Mr. Huntington had previously taken in Argenteuil. These are the men who denounce judges like M. Routhier and ecclesiastics like Bishop Langevin, and yet they appoint to the Senate a mere youth for no other reason than that he wrote a clever letter in favour of Ultramontanism! Where is the sincerity of this Ministry? The history of Parliamentary Government affords no more striking example of insincerity and hypocrisy. Mr. Mackenzie, when he goes on the stump, is fond of tracing the pedigree of his Party to those great puritan leaders who smote the Stuarts and laid deep and broad the foundation of Protestant England. At that time there was no Syllabus, and every Roman Catholic country had its national church. Ultramontanism is of modern growth—yet Mr. Mackenzie, on whom the mantles of Howe and Hampden, of John Knox and John Milton, have all, if we take his own word for it, fallen, makes a Canadian "peer" of a mere youth because he had proved himself an expert advocate of Ultramontanism. Suppose the letter was in favour of liberty, suppose it showed such a grasp of economic questions as would indicate a capacity for legislation, even then a senatorship would be a reward somewhat above the service done the country. Clever letters to newspapers are happily not so scarce. But a so-called Liberal Government, containing two prominent denouncers of Ultramontanism, with Mr. Blake for its Minister of Justice, and at its head a gentleman whose favourite *pose* is as the heir of the Puritans, endorsing—because that is what it comes to—an elaborate argument on the side of Ultramontanism, presents, to say the least, a very inconsistent and humiliating appearance.

It is said that young Mr. Power is clever. But that would be a reason for not sending him to the Senate. What is needed in the Senate is experience. If he is clever he could, we suppose, have found a seat for the Commons, and the Senate, on the showing of Mr. Mills, should be kept for such gentlemen as Mr. Penny, Mr. Brown, and Mr. Adam Hope, who could not have got constituencies to return them to Parliament. That the new Senator is a Catholic, other things being as they should be, might be in his favour. We think the place was due to a Catholic. But a Catholic of experience could have been and should have been found. If we are to fall into a system of appointing Senators because their fathers have claims on the Government, the Senate will be degraded lower than its worst enemies could have hoped in their most sanguine moments to see it. Perhaps we have not seen the scandal at its most virulent stage yet. We may one day see Mr. Power, jr., retire from the Senate in favour of Mr. Power, sr. Meanwhile when Mr. Mackenzie visits his constituents we shall doubtless hear that his Government never stoops to a discreditable job and that he himself is the consistent heir of the Puritans and the sworn foe of Ultramontanism.

FARMERS AND PROTECTION.

We had occasion lately to notice the fact that at a meeting of the District Grange, County of Essex, resolutions were passed condemning the present one-sided system of Free Trade in grain north of the boundary line, with high Protection to the south of it. As a further proof of how the farmers are "waking "up" on this question, take the following petition to the Dominion House of Commons, which was adopted at the recent meeting of the Essex County Council by a vote of fifteen yeas to six nays:

"The petition of the Warden, Reeves, and Deputy Reeves of the County of Essex, in the Province of Ontario, in council assembled, respectfully showeth: That the high customs tariff imposed by the United States Government upon all farm produce operates most injuriously upon the agricultural interests of the Province of Ontario, inasmuch as our farmers are thereby virtually cut off from the American markets, while American farmers are permitted to compete with us in our home markets, without any restriction in so far as our staple farm products are concerned. That it appears to your petitioners that a Canadian tariff, corresponding to that imposed by the Government of the United States, would remedy this gross injustice, and that such a tariff would be highly beneficial to our farming community.

"Thereupon your petitioners most respectfully pray that your honourable body would be pleased so to alter our Canadian tariff as to make it correspond with the tariff of the United States, in respect to the customs duties imposed upon agricultural products, and your petitioners, as in duty bound, will ever pray, etc."

"Council Chamber,
"Sandwich, 27th Jan., 1877."

It is safe to affirm that, were is possible to get party politics wholly out of the discussion, the above petition or something to the same purpose would be adopted by every County Council in Ontario. Nothing but the fear of damaging the Mackenzie Government, on the part of its supporters, stands in the way of an almost unanimous expression of opinion on the subject by the farmers of Ontario. It has come to be a question of time merely—how long men who in their own minds do most heartily agree with the prayer of the above petition will continue to act against their sincere convictions, simply because they fear to hurt the Party to which they belong. We do not think that the honest belief which is actually held by nine farmers out of every ten in the country can much longer be smothered for Party purposes solely. The injustice from which our agricultural interest suffers is so wholly indefensible, and any hope of its being voluntarily redressed by our neighbours so futile, that even Party prejudices cannot much longer delay the triumph of plain right and reason. The pretence that we cannot do this, and cannot do that—that we dare not give fair play to the leading interest of one Province because the people of another Province will grumble—is weak and childish in the face of facts lying under the noses of the objectors. The Americans protect their coal interest, their farming interest, and their milling interest, and find no trouble at all in doing so. Nay, they have become so well used to such protection of home interests, and the system works so evidently for the benefit of the nation as a whole, that they are certain to stick more closely to it with every year's experience. Silks and laces are sometimes smuggled in from France, but we do not hear of any smuggling of Canadian coal, or grain, or flour. As regards these articles the American tariff is a complete success—for American interests. Let the objectors to whom we refer come down to the crucial test of experience, and cease the stupid argument that we cannot do what our neighbours do so easily and so successfully. Of what value are their theories when set against the logic of facts—of facts that are verified every time a car-load or ship load of Canadian produce enters the American market?

THE INDEMNITY QUESTION.

For the present the Ontario Government have tided over the difficulty connected with this question, though not in a very honourable way. The subject had been discussed at several Council meetings, and had formed the anxious topic of animated conversations at caucuses. The result of it all was, that when the indemnity item in the Estimates was reached on last week, the Treasurer moved to reduce it from $800 to $600. Mr. Hardy moved, in amendment, that the amount be struck out altogether. The debate which followed had a piquancy which, judging from previous debates in the House, must be attributed to the spice of self-interest attaching to it. Some capital speeches were made, particularly in favour of the retention of the larger amount. Mr. Macdougall was unusually eloquent, and did not forget to repeat what he had said on a previous occasion, that the agitation was entirely due to "a few newspaper writers." This is not a solitary instance of men seeking to disparage the instruments of their elevation. Mr. Macdougall ought to know something of the power of "newspaper writers." We shall hardly be charged with egotism when we say they are at least not less influential now than when the member for South Simcoe sat in the editorial chair. In this matter of indemnity, however, he would be much nearer the fact if he were to say, with Mr. Bethune, that the press is but the exponent of public opinion. Mr. Code's speech was so clever that it is to be hoped he will be heard more frequently. But to return to the motions in the House. Mr. Hardy's amendment was lost by a very decisive vote, only seventeen members voting for it; Mr. Crooks' motion, reducing the indemnity to $600, was then put and lost by an adverse majority of two; and the item, as originally brought down—$800—was adopted.

Mr. Hardy's amendment was buncombe pure and simple; and we think we do him no injustice when we say that he would have been less hasty to move it if he had supposed there was the least chance of its being carried. We are very far indeed from applying Dr. Johnson's definition of patriotism to Mr. Hardy, but his conduct in moving an amendment which embodies a doctrine that cannot for many years at all events obtain recognition in Canada, brings the definition to mind, even though its application has to be avoided. It is hardly necessary at this day to discuss the question whether any indemnity should be paid to members. It must be. It is paid in the United States; it is paid at Ottawa; it is paid in all the Provinces. To cut it off altogether would be to shut out of the Legislature many men who are as well fitted to represent the people as those with very long purses. If Mr. Hardy thought he could gain a little *kudos* by such a display of disinterestedness, we think he will find himself mistaken. Probably he could afford to spend a couple of months in Toronto without financial compensation to any extent whatever; but there are members as able as he who could not; and it would be most unfair to impose a burden upon them which they could not bear. The public, however, is impressed with the conviction that $600 a session is a fair indemnity; and we are disposed to think that, looking at the amount merely as indemnity—not as salary—it ought to be considered sufficient.

The Government, conscious of the feeling existing in the House and the country, proposed to reduce the item from $800 to $600. Now, look at the hypocrisy of the thing. We do not wonder that a majority of the members refused to assent to the reduction, when they found that the members of the Government were determined that the pruning-knife should not touch their own salaries. The increase of last year was not an increase of indemnity merely; it affected also the salaries of Ministers. It was the result of a compact formed by the leading men of both sides of the House. The compact ought to have been respected by the Government as a whole, or attacked as a whole. But no. Unselfish men that they are, they are quite willing that the private member who got $800 should be cut down to $600, but Mr. Mowat's $5,500 and Mr. Crooks' $4,300 must not be touched! This was not treating the House fairly. It was, besides, a direct invitation to members to vote down the partial proposal of the Government. The House could very fairly say: "Why ask us to do what "you are not willing to do with respect "to yourselves? Why, Mr. Premier, "ask us to sacrifice $200 of our indemnity while you hold to your extra $1,500 "income?" And so the increases all round remain. We believe the sentiment of the country is not favourable to the step which the House has taken; and the electors will be perfectly right in attributing it mainly to the greed of Ministers.

DOMINION PENITENTIARIES.

Mr. Moylan's Annual Report for 1876.

Ottawa, Feb. 9.—The annual report for 1876 of the Dominion Penitentiaries was brought down by Mr. Blake to-day. It includes also references to the Rockwood Criminal Lunatic Asylum.

The Inspector of Penitentiaries, Mr. Moylan, gives a long and interesting summary of prison affairs. This gentleman reports that from personal inspection he can approve of a new penitentiary site at Dorchester, N.B., as it is well situated on the Intercolonial railway. He remarks that little interest is manifested by Canadian authorities in prison discipline, and instances the marked attention paid to this in the Netherlands, the United States, Belgium, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland, and even in Mexico. A Congress is shortly to be held at Stockholm, where matters of this kind will be taken into consideration by International Convention, and he hopes Canada will be represented. The report further alludes to the respectably and decently inclined who may happen to be confined, being forced to consort with burglars and even murderers, and suggests that some reform might be made to secure comparative isolation in the new penitentiaries at St. Vincent de Paul and the Maritime Provinces, as also in British Columbia and Manitoba. Suggestions are made that a convict should be stimulated to good behaviour by a promise of executive clemency and the remission of one-sixth of his term of imprisonment, together with an increased money gratuity on his discharge, as well as distinctive grade marks on his clothing according to behaviour. A fund, the Inspector thinks, might be set apart by Parliament for the purpose. During 1876 it was found necessary to use the "cat," at Kingston and St. Vincent de Paul in consequence of insubordination. It had the desired effect, not having been resorted to until every sort of moral suasion failed to subdue the ringleaders. Each penitentiary has its own library, the one at Kingston having nearly 4,000 volumes. The libraries at St. John and Halifax are very poorly supplied.

A large increase has taken place in the prison population during the past year. The total number of convicts in the five penitentiaries on the 31st Dec., 1872 was 825, of whom 27 were females. On the corresponding date of 1876 there were 1,048, the females numbering 28, the total increase being 223. The figures are follows:—Kingston, 703, St. Vincent de Paul, 182, St. John, N. B., 74, Halifax, N.S., 74, Manitoba, 15. On the 31st Dec., 1876, there were 18 females at Kingston and five in each of the penitentiaries at St. John and Halifax. The wardens all agree in attributing the increase in crime to the scarcity of employment and the low wages consequent upon the long-continued financial depression. There are several weak-minded or mentally deranged convicts, especially at Kingston, who are unfit to undergo the usual discipline, and their association with the other prisoners tends to cause breaches of the prison rules. It would be to the advantage of both classes were they kept apart.

The expenditures in 1876 at Kingston penitentiary were $106,599, compared with $96,423 in 1875, the increase being in consequence of an addition to the population of the prison. At Rockwood Asylum, in 1875, there was a total number of 378. There are fifty criminal lunatics. The sentences of twenty-six having expired, twenty-four remain to be transferred to the asylum now in course of preparation. The number of convicts at St. Vincent de Paul on the 31st Dec., 1875, was 120, and on the same date of 1876, 182. The average number in 1876 was 173, and the average cost, $290.93 per head. In St. John Penitentiary at the end of 1876 there were seventy-four convicts and eighty-two common prisoners, being a total of 156, the average cost per head being $177.83. In the Halifax prison there were on Dec. 31st, 1876, seventy-eight prisoners, the average cost per head being $229.95, a reduction compared with 1875. In Manitoba the number of convicts on the 31st Dec., 1876, was 151.

THE TRADE RETURNS FOR 1876.

Ottawa, Feb. 9.—The Trade and Navigation returns were brought down to-day.

The total value of the exports exceeded that of 1875 by upwards of $3,000,000, but is below the figures of any one of the three preceding years. The value of the imports falls short of 1875 nearly $30,000,000, and the value of that portion of the same entered for consumption in round numbers, $25,000,000, the duty paid thereon being $2,528,267.64 less than in the preceding year.

The figures show the balance of trade to have approached nearer to an equilibrium in the last than in any year since 1871, the excess of imports over exports being:—

1872	$28,796,864
1873	38,321,259
1874	38,361,654
1875	45,183,394
1876	12,343,911

It is noted that there has been a decline of $21,805,983 in 1876 over 1875, the principal volume of which is in the trade with Great Britain. This is wholly in the imports, the increase in the exports of the year being chiefly attributable to that country. The trade with Great Britain for 1876 stands as follows:—

Imports	$40,734,360
Exports	42,74[illegible]
Excess of exports over imports	2,005,800

The trade with the United States, on the other hand, shows quite opposite results, the imports being $46,070,033, and the exports $29,916,876, the excess of imports over exports $16,153,157. This excess of imports is chiefly in consequence of the very large proportion of raw material for manufacturers with coal, grain, flour, etc., imported from that country and included in the schedules of free goods, the aggregate value of which amounts to $24,730,371. The value of the free goods imported from Great Britain is $8,348,778.

In examining the statements of dutiable imports the most noteworthy feature observed is that of the deficiency in the values of about $18,000,000. No less than $16,000,000 is in the classes of goods subject to the duty of 17½ percent. This decline is attributed to the imports of cotton and to a heavy and continuous fall in prices, the result of the depression in trade in the United States and England—principally in the former country, where the manufacture of such goods was carried to a great excess in 1873 and 1874, and where, when a general stagnation in business occurred, the holders of such stocks were compelled to realize at immensely reduced values. Many of the foregoing remarks will apply also to the imports of woollen goods, the decline in which is over $4,000,000.

The aggregate value of the goods entered for consumption in the Dominion for the nine years from 1st July, 1868, to 30th June, 1876, was $874,552,315, of which Great Britain is credited with $457,151,517, the United States $341,928,755, and all other countries $75,472,043. The total average value per annum was $97,172,479, the relative proportions being from Great Britain $50,714,613, from the United States $37,992,084, and from all other countries $8,385,782, giving a percentage from Great Britain of 52.27, from the United States 39.10, and from all other countries 8.63.

The aggregate value of exports during the same term was $686,424,704, of which Great Britain received $311,371,498, the United States $308,807,541, and other countries $66,245,665. The average value per annum was $76,269,411; to Great Britain $34,596,833, to the United States $34,311,949, and to other countries $7,360,629, the percentage being to Great Britain $45.36, the United States 44.99, and other countries 9 65.

The total excess of imports over exports for the nine years in question was $188,127,611, divided as follows:—

Great Britain	$145,780,019	— 77.48 p.c.
United States	33,121,214	— 17.61 p.c.
Other countries	9,226,378	— 4.91 p.c.

MONTHLY WEATHER REVIEW.

We have received from the Meteorological Office a very interesting paper called the "Monthly Weather Review for January, 1877." We believe it is the intention of this office to continue this publication from month to month, so that at the end of the year a very useful and exact record of the various meteorological phenomena will have been issued. As we have not space to give the whole in detail we extract the most interesting portions.

The mean atmospheric pressure appears to have been higher, throughout the Dominion of Canada, than in the previous month, and in Ontario and Quebec higher than in January 1876. The mean temperature in Ontario differed very little from that of December. The total precipitation at all stations except Quebec and Halifax was very much below the same month in the two previous years.

The total number of predictions issued by this office was 216, and their verification as follows:—90·7 per cent verified and 76·3 per cent, completely so. Of the 32 storm warnings issued (all to the Maritime Provinces), as far as reports have been received, all appear to have been verified, but six were not in time owing to the telegraph wires being down. A very interesting account of the areas of high and low atmospheric pressure is also given.

The principal features of the weather in Toronto were the following:—

The atmospheric pressure was 0·04 above the average for January as obtained from 36 years of observations. The mean temperature was 17° 55', being 5° 4' below the average of 37 years. Highest temperature during the month 40° 8' on the 20th, lowest 13° 9' on the 12th. Warmest day, the 31st, mean temperature 31° 5'. The amount of rain was scarcely measurable, the total being ·03 of an inch. The average amount for the month is nearly two inches. The fall of snow was also below the average 3·7 inches. Of the 744 hours of wind, 538 were in the quadrant. The number of halos and coronæ was large, and the absence of Aurora well marked.

At the annual meeting of the South Simcoe County Orange Lodge of Alliston on the 6th inst., the following were elected officers for 1877:—Bro. John Hoey, re-elected County Master; Bro. Thomas Atkins, Deputy County Master; Brother W. K. Rankin, County Chaplain; Bro. Malcolm Colquhoun, re-elected County Secretary; Bro. James Cumberland, re-elected County Treasurer; Bro. John Sutherland, County Director of Ceremonies; Bro. Joseph Stewart, County Lecturer.

CANADIAN.

Ten papers are published in the County of Huron.

A new Baptist church is to be built in Collingwood.

Mr. John Haggart has resigned the mayoralty of Brampton.

A gymnasium has been started by the young men of Dundalk.

A new grange has been organized in West Garafraxa to be known as Flora Grange.

An addition is to be built to the Court House in Barrie this spring, to cost $3,000.

It is estimated that about $30,000 was paid out in Prince Edward county last year for eggs.

The Ponsonby Grange, township of Pilkington, has decided that country stores are a necessity.

The Stratford town council at its last meeting lowered the fee for hotel licences from $200 to $125.

Alliston wants a branch line of the Hamilton & North Western, by next summer, and is moving in that direction.

Mr. Tanner, who was accidentally shot in the back by a Detroit policeman, a couple of months since, died in Guelph on Wednesday, Feb. 7th.

The temperance men of the county will meet in Napanee on the 16th inst., to take measures in reference to the strict enforcement of the Dunkin By-law.

One day last week five horses were sold in Mitchell by auction, to satisfy the demands of the Sheriff's execution. The average price realized for each was $4.69.

The farm of Mr. Andrew Emmerson, lot 10, con 16, East Zorra, has been sold to William and John Gowing, of Walmer. The price paid was $6,500 for the 100 acres.

The Presbytery of Ottawa met in Knox church, Beckwith, on the 25th inst., and inducted the Rev. J. M. McAllister into the pastoral charge of that and the associated congregation of Ashton.

Very successful revival services are being held in the Canada Methodist church at Shiloh. Some twenty-five persons have already presented themselves as desirous to commence a religious life.

Says the Guelph *Mercury*:—"The Grange at Ponsonby at their last monthly meeting decided unanimously that country stores were a necessity, and it was not advisable to endeavour to do away with or injure them."

Mr. Chas. Gilder, of Luther, has had a series of very sad bereavements of late. Some two or three weeks ago he lost three children, within a very few days, from typhoid fever, and now, his wife has been carried off by the same dread disease.

The annual meeting of the Clifford Union Agricultural Society was held on the 1st of February, when the following officers were appointed:—Francis Brown, President; Thelismer Harrison, Vice-President; Capt. Boyd, Secretary and Treasurer.

There were somewhat about forty buildings erected in the Village of Blyth last summer. Some handsome dwelling houses, a great many stores, workshops, and public buildings, and a fine Roman Catholic church, costing $4,000, are included in the number.

At a meeting of Conservatives held at the Haysville Town Hall on the 6th, Mr. Wm. Skelly was unanimously elected Vice-President of the Conservative Association in the South Riding of Waterloo, Mr. Gye having tendered his resignation, which was accepted. Mr. Skelly is the right man, and will give a fresh impetus to the cause.

The Guelph papers give the following further particulars of a seizure made on Sunday, Feb. 4: "Preparations were made on Saturday night last and the seizure made on Sunday by Acting Collector McLean, assisted by Officer Nichols and other officers. The District Inspector, Mr. Romain, decided, after receiving the information, that no time should be lost, as the parties interested would be less on their guard on Sunday than other days."

An exchange says:—"Two well-to-do farmers of Chesley, members of a Grange in that neighbourhood, had 800 pounds of butter to sell, and thinking that twenty cents per pound, the amount that they were offered at home, was too little, they hitched up and drove all the way to Galt, and could not even strike up a bargain there. They finally concluded to return home, and going by way of Harriston, they concluded to sell, and the best they could do was to get seventeen cents per pound from a Toronto dealer. There is such a thing as being too avaricious by half, and we are afraid these two Chesley farmers were."

The St. Catharines *Journal*, Feb. 6, says:—"The rumour current on the streets yesterday, that a serious break had occurred in one of the dams of the reservoir at DeCew Falls had, we are happy to learn, no foundation in fact. The only foundation for the report was the sudden flowing of an old spring on the lands of Mr. Chappel, contiguous to the reservoir. No water has flowed from this spring for years until Sunday last, when a large stream burst forth. Whence the water comes from which the spring is fed, is not yet definitely known."

The Port Whitby and Port Perry railway management has just placed on the line a splendid 35-ton engine, the James Michie, also a formidable snow plough, and have in course of construction, to be delivered next June, two passenger cars, a smoking and baggage car combined, two cattle cars, fifteen box cars, and fifteen flat cars, costing altogether close on $40,000. They have built a new storehouse at Manilla, and are making other extensive preparations, requiring a large outlay, for opening, equipping, and running the road to Lindsay early in the summer. The road is to be known in future as the Whitby, Port Perry, and Lindsay railway.

On Wednesday, the 31st January, says the Dunnville *Gazette*, a horrible affair took place on the Forks Road, which may possibly result in permanent injury to one of the parties. It seems that a young man named Lee, living on the Forks Road, has been paying attention to a young woman whose name we have not learned, and as time passed along she became somewhat impatient as to his intentions, and pressed him to marry her. On his declining to accede to her proposal she poured a quantity of nitric acid, which she had previously obtained, into a cup, and asked him to drink it, but he would not do it, when enraged by his refusal she dashed the acid in his face, burning him frightfully. The whole upper portion of his face was very severely burned, but fortunately his eyes, though both of them suffered severe injury, were not destroyed as might have been the case. Dr. Heartwell was immediately sent for, and on his arrival did everything that medical skill could do to alleviate the suffering. There are hopes that both eyes may yet be saved, although it is probable Lee will be permanently disfigured. So far as we can learn no steps have been taken to punish the woman, and it is said she is about marrying another man.

How a serious mistake may sometimes happen is thus told by the St. Catharines *Journal*:—"We have often heard of wonderful cases of mistaken identity, but on Saturday (Feb. 3rd) there happened at Mr. Walkenshaw's store, St. Paul street, a singular case of mistaken theft. A poor but industrious man (living in a house in the gravel pit on Niagara street, back of Mr. E. Winton's new grocery), whose name is T. F. Brightmand, stepped into the store with a bundle of different coloured tissue paper under his arm, loose. No one noticed him bring it in, but several saw him going out with it, and were ready to testify to that fact, when Mr. Winton missed a similar roll of tissue paper usually kept on a table near the door. The whole presumptive proof was so extremely strong that the paper which the man was seen carrying out of the store was the identical paper Mr. Winton had missed, that after a more thorough search he proceeded to recover, as he supposed the stolen goods. He is extremely sorry that he made such a gross mistake, and wishes us to, in the most public manner, say that Mr. Brightmand is entirely innocent in the whole unfortunate matter, as he afterwards found to his surprise that his own roll of paper had been mislaid and partially covered over."

A man named James Freeman, who has been working as a labourer in St. Thomas for more than a year past, was arrested on Saturday (February 3rd) by Detective Fewings, on a charge of bigamy. According to present information, it would appear that Freeman was first married at Newbury about five years ago, his wife having now a child about four years old. After a time he deserted her and betook himself to St. Thomas, where he ultimately became acquainted with a young girl named Vinson. The courtship ended in a proposal of marriage, which Freeman was so anxious to have consummated as speedily as possible, that he requested Father Flannery to have the ceremony performed on Christmas Day, 1875. The rev. gentlemen declined, however, and had the banns proclaimed three times—twice in St. Thomas and once in Port Stanley. After these preliminaries and before the marriage took place, Father Flannery heard a faint rumour that Freeman was already a married man, and declined to proceed unless he were assured to the contrary. Freeman and his brother denied the imputation emphatically, and offered to make solemn oath that there was no foundation for it. The ceremony was accordingly performed; and it is only quite recently that confirmation strong has leaked out concerning the charge. The case will be tried before the Police Magistrate on Friday (9th inst.)—*St. Thomas Times.*

The St. Thomas *Times* says:—"John Smith and Edward Turner, two of the tramp fraternity, appeared before the Police Magistrate on Friday, Feb. 2nd, on a charge of appropriating to their own use a sum of money belonging to Mrs. Casey. The evidence went to show that James Palmer, in the employment of Mrs. Casey, had lost $35 while he was on his way to Fingal to settle some accounts, and that the money had been rolled in one of these accounts. Prisoners, who had been coming along the road, were seen to pick up something. They subsequently got a ride to town on Robert Mitchell's sleigh, and showed their generous spirit by treating Mitchell and a companion to drinks at Stanton's Hotel, Middlemarch, and at the Hutchinson House, St. Thomas, changing a $5 for the purpose. At Carrie's store they bought clothing to the amount of $9.25, handing to the clerk one out of three $10 bills, after which they made straight for the Air Line station and took the first train to London. These facts being discovered, Mr. G. E. Casey telegraphed to the Chief of Police, London. The prisoners were soon afterwards arrested, but not until all the money except $9.95 had been expended. They had invested the balance in more clothing, a revolver, a box of cartridges, a pocket-book, and lots of liquor. On being arrested they professed to have earned the money, and indignantly denied the charge of having found and pocketed it. They afterwards, however, made a confession of the truth. They were committed for trial."

FARM AND OTHER NOTES.

DANGER AHEAD—SPRING WHEAT.

Under the above caption, the *Farmers' Advocate* prints the following:—

Sir,—As the time is near at hand when our farmers will be on the look-out for spring seed grain, I would like to offer a few remarks in regard to the choosing of spring wheat. Until the past few years our Excelsior spring wheat has enjoyed an enviable reputation both at home and abroad, and our millers were able to make from it a flour which commanded for itself a position in the market it had to compete in, as well as a price remunerative to the manufacturer; but I am very sorry such is not now the case. Instead of our spring wheat flours being eagerly sought after in Montreal, Halifax, St. John, and other markets, by the bakers, for sponging, we find it crowded to the wall and taking a "back seat," while American flours made in the great mills of Minnesota and Wisconsin from North-western wheat are fairly occupying the proud position our flours once held. You will naturally ask, why is this? I think the answer can be found in the fact that our farmers have of late been growing very inferior kinds of spring wheat, which do not contain the necessary glutin and absorbents to commend them to our bakers. This fact has been very forcibly impressed upon me during the past two years, and especially so during last fall. In previous years, our crops being ample, I found little difficulty in choosing enough Scotch Fife from among the other kinds offered to supply my mill; but last fall, our crops being meagre, I was forced to grind other kinds, among which was that thoroughly deceptive, and worthless of all worthless wheats, the "Red Chaff" or farrow. No sooner had I commenced to grind this miserable grain (it is not worthy of the name of wheat) than complaints began to pour in on every side; from the bakers first, and then from private families; the former complained that it was weak, would not take up the water, and did not make as many loaves to the barrel as it should, and was dark and heavy in appearance; the latter, that it was hard to make rise, and when baked was dry, harsh and crumbly. These complaints led me to thoroughly examine and test the matter. I found that it yields about four pounds per bushel less of flour than Scotch or Fife, and that it made five loaves (two pounds each) less of bread per hundred pounds than flour made from Scotch or Fife wheat; this latter fact I have from more than one baker whom I supplied, a fact which could be easily arrived at by them. If we reduce the above facts to figures, we find that the loss to the miller is equal to 12 cts. per bushel, taking flour at $3 per 100 lbs., and to the baker, of 30 cts. per 100 lbs., taking 6 cts. per loaf as the selling price of a two-pound loaf, representing a difference of nearly twenty-five cents per bushel as compared with Fife wheat. This may seem almost incredible, but the facts are incontrovertible, and forced me to look elsewhere for my wheat, and since early in November I have been grinding Minnesota hard wheat. This, I find, admirably supplies the place of the old Scotch Fife, and, indeed, I think even surpasses it in some respects, being thinner skinned and brighter, produces more flour, and of a better colour. I would most earnestly recommend our farmers to use every exertion to possess themselves of some of the North-western spring wheat for seed; in sowing a little they can be running but little risk, at any rate almost any risk is preferable to the loss and disappointment which awaits our farmers if they continue to sow the Red Chaff, for our millers will be forced in self-defence to leave it mercilessly alone, and the consequence will be that it will go into the hands of shippers, as it has done this year, and will go forward to the British markets unmixed, and by its utter poverty of everything good teach the British corn factor and miller to beware of Canada Club, by which name our spring wheat is known abroad. I read with much interest the article in your October number of "Manitoba Wheat for Seed," by H. W. Burrows, of Winnipeg, and bearing as it does so directly on the matter which I have attempted to consider in this letter, I would urge upon our farmers to again peruse it, for it demands their gravest thought and consideration. In conclusion, let me hope that pride, if not self-interest, will lead the agriculturists of Ontario to avert while they can a calamity which is sure to come if the barrier be not at once raised.

J. D. SAUNBY.

North Branch Mills, London, Ont.

MISCELLANEOUS.

If a man doesn't have a good large pile of wood to last through summer and winter, he is not as thoroughly civilized as he might be.—*Lewiston Journal.*

Fowl have an instinctive dread of snow, and cannot be driven to walk over it. A little sand, dry earth, or ashes scattered along where you wish them to go, removes the difficulty effectually; they will walk over it without hesitation.—*Poultry World.*

Hogs will eat fish with avidity, and will thrive upon this if some vegetables are given with it. We know of no reason why a mixed diet of fish and sweet potatoes or corn should not be healthful for your hogs, but fish alone would not make a suitable food.—*Our Home Journal.*

Farmers, your experience is requested for publication in this department. If you have a good way of doing a thing, let the world know of it through the columns of a widely circulated paper; or if you have any suggestions to make to your brother farmers, let us have them too.—*St. Paul Pioneer-Press.*

The cloud which throughout 1876 has rested on the Shorthorn is, in no small measure, due to the unwisdom of putting forward a soft touch, a silky hair, a dished head, a greenish horn, as the special attributes of a breed which won its position for very different reasons—for its early maturity, its readiness to adapt itself to circumstances, and its combination of beef with milk.—*English Reporter.*

No contrivance has ever been invented, or ever can be invented that will dispense with the necessity of anchoring a fence to the ground, and all the new inventions of cross-pieces on the surface with braces attached, while they are about as expensive as a good board or post-and-rail fence, are found to last but a very short time. Farmers may therefore make up their minds that the old methods are most profitable.—*National Live Stock Journal.*

There is a very simple way of avoiding the disagreeable smoke and gas which always pours into the room when a fire is lit in a stove, heater, or fire-place on a damp day. Put in the wood and coal as usual, but before lighting them, ignite a handful of paper or shavings placed on the top of the coal. This produces a current of hot-air in the chimney, which draws up the smoke and gas at once. Not one person out of fifty ever thinks of this easy expedient.—*Scientific American.*

There is a popular belief that ivy growing upon a building renders it damp and unhealthy, which is quite unreasonable; in fact, if a wall, particularly a north wall, be damp, the best treatment is to plant English ivies at its base; for not only does the dense foliage of the plant keep out rain, but its aerial roots absorb the moisture already in the wall. The real mischief done by ivy is to old buildings of stone or brick, from whose joints the mortar has been dislodged.—*American Architect.*

Although early in the season, yet vast flocks of wild geese are seen daily hovering over the wheat fields in the lower part of the country. They have become such a nuisance that all of the large farmers are compelled to hire men to walk back and forth over the grain fields, gun in hand, and discharge it dozens of times each day in order to keep the crop from being destroyed. Large numbers of them are killed, some of which are never taken from the place where they fell.—*Orride Mercury, Cal.*

In the economy of nature a certain proportion of adipose is the complement of a fixed quantity of muscular tissue. Excess is an excrescence, if not a disease; nevertheless, graziers continue to lay fat on their beasts with the energy of men heaping up a reserve stock of fuel for vital energy, instead of so much waste, a burden to the animal, no good to the meat eater, and valuable only to the cook or kitchen-maid, to whose lot it falls as "perquisites" for that abyss of domestic extravagance, the "grease-pot."—*London Lancet.*

The Superintendent has two specimens, one a large round stone, resembling a highly polished piece of marble, and weighing one-and-a-half pounds. Another is a calcareous substance having the appearance of a petrified sponge. Both of these stones were taken from the intestines of horses, and caused their death. It is thought the former was caused by secretions of dirt and dust which had gathered in the stomach of the animal, and by the process of time had become hardened and formed into this semblance of polished marble.—*Kentucky Live Stock Record.*

It is to be hoped that the time may come when there will be at least one man in every town capable of giving lectures upon the anatomy of farm animals, in the school-houses, town halls, or other appropriate assembly rooms, thereby instructing the farmers upon a subject on which as a class they sadly stand in need of information. When this time arrives those cruel practices of boring the horns and splitting the tails of cows, to cure imaginary diseases, will have passed away, and we shall no longer hear of men prescribing filthy compounds for restoring "lost cuds" in ruminants.—*Moore's Rural.*

The following fact indicates the value of legislation in the interest of the farmer, and also for the interest of the consumer. The demand for milk since the Adulteration Act came into force has increased in an unprecedented manner, and so long as our urban populations can be supplied with a sound and genuine article, the demand for it will continue to increase. The people have discovered that by the increased consumption of milk the general health of the family is greatly improved; and there can be no doubt that this will always be the result so long as the milk consumed is sound and good.—*London Farmer.*

The ingenious production of artificial combs with cells rivalling, if not exceeding, the natural product, is an important American improvement in apiarian culture, which will add largely to the economy of this industry, yet in its infancy. As the bee is said to consume three-fourths of its time in producing comb at the very time when the honey harvest is at its best, it is evident that the invention of artificial combs must be a great economy in the collection and storing of honey; but it is not so clear how the stock is to be kept up unless man devises the bee by using "mineral wax" in the formation of the artificial comb; and this wax is not true wax, but a natural paraffin.—*Western Rural.*

Like other dames of renown, the guardian angel of Shorthorn breeders must "stoop to conquer." It is quite possible to be sane, and yet to doubt the advantage of the inflated language and prices which have been of recent years applied to bulls and cows. And it is equally possible to maintain one's credit for good sense without accepting the apparently opposite alternative into which some writers have been fit to run—*i. e.*, of denouncing the whole value attributed to certain tribes of Shorthorns as fictitious. Indeed, there are good grounds for believing that Shorthorn breeders are "tiding over" a time of universal depression throughout the world, not only not worse, but better than other producers of all but the necessaries for existence.—*English Gazette.*

So far as the discussion has gone I perceive the following points are agreed to: First, not to hurriedly destroy an old tree before its successor is established; second, not to prune an old tree, especially if solitary, but leave that operation to Nature; third, not to hesitate to graft a stock provided it is healthy; fourth, not to fear the cutting-down of a tree if its stem is clean and healthy, while the upper parts are knotty and gnarled, the sap vessels choked, so that it may produce new parts; and fifth, to keep the trees, particularly the young wood and fruit-bearing spurs, clear of lichens. These conditions are pretty well agreed upon, and I believe them to be sound. As to the mode of carrying them out, each gardener must adopt that which is most suitable to his circumstances.—*London Journal of Horticulture.*

The pumpkin is one of the old fashioned vegetables that has held its own among upstart rivals for 100 years. Precious little help has the pumpkin had from the propagating gardeners who are so intent on improving nature's production in other fields. The pumpkin is of the same honest, homespun, self-made sort of vegetable vagabond it was when it straggled through the cornfields, and dotted the autumn landscape with spots of golden colour, in the pioneer days when luxuries were not necessities, and wants were few. They pretend to say that the quality had deteriorated, like some strains of blood in men whose heads this useful vegetable has most uncharitably been made to symbolize, and that the flesh is white and poor compared with what it was in former years. Yet this may be merely the croak of the old-time worshippers.—*Golden Rule.*

Wits and Witticisms.

(*From Chambers' Journal.*)

Shakespeare's statement, that "a jest's prosperity lies not in the tongue of him who makes it," is unhappily not quite correct. It often lies not only in his tongue but in his manner of speaking it, and in the occasion which brings it forth; and all these advantages are lost when it is re-told. In works, therefore, such as Timbs' *Anecdote Lives of the later Wits and Humourists* (Bentley) before us, the editor has a much more difficult task, and one less likely to be appreciated than may be supposed. With the exception too of Douglas Jerrold and one or two others, whose sayings have not only been "extremely quoted," as Praed expresses it, but published, it is very hard to discover what they said. A wit is in this view almost as unfortunate as an actor, since if we have neither seen nor heard him, we are not likely to be in a position to judge how great a wit he was. On the other hand, a work of this kind is very useful in putting the saddle on the right horse, and also in tracing the accepted witticism to its true source.

For example, no *bon mot* has been in more general use of late than that attributed to Sir George Cornewall Lewis, "How pleasant would life be but for its amusements;" and especially if there was no such thing as 'a little music' in the world." Now, the germ of this, as Mr. Timbs shows us, is to be found in Talleyrand's *Memoirs*. "Is not Geneva dull?" asked a friend of his. "Yes," he replied, "especially when they amuse themselves."

There has been no one like Talleyrand for cynicism; for though Jerrold has a reputation for bitter aloes, there was generally some fun about his satire, which prevented irritation on the part of its object. Imagine a lady hearing that this had been said of her: "She is insupportable;" with the addition (as if the prudent statesman had gone too far, and wished to make amends): "that is her only defect." Thulleroe, who went on the Polish Revolution, once observed: "I never did such mischievous work in my life." "And when will it be ended?" inquired Talleyrand. It was he who remarked upon the murder of the Duke d'Enghien, that "it was worse than a crime; it was a blunder." Curiously enough, Charles Buller said of this "that such an expression could never be uttered by an Englishman, and could be heard by no Englishman without disgust;" and yet this saying has been more quoted of late—and seriously too—than almost any other, both by our statesmen and our newspaper writers. Madame de Staël drew a portrait of him, as an elderly lady, in her novel of *Delphine*, and also of herself as the heroine. "They tell me," said he, "that we are both of us in your novel in the *disguise of women*." Perhaps his very best witticism was upon an old lady of rank, who married a *valet de chambre*, and it was made at the whist-table. "Ah," said he, "it was late in the game; at nine[*] we don't reckon honours."

A very different sort of Wit was Archbishop Whately; for though he was caustic enough, he could be comical, and even did not shrink from a pun. This is generally a low species of wit, but it must be remembered that perhaps the very best "good thing" that was ever uttered, Jerrold's definition of dogmatism (grown-up puppyism), included it. Fuel was speaking to the archbishop about the (then) new and improved treatment of lunatics, and mentioned that gardening was found to be a good occupation for them. "I should doubt that," replied his Grace; "they might grow madder." He once confounded a horse-dealer who was endeavouring to sell him a very powerful animal. "There is nothing, your Grace," said he, "which he can't draw." "Can he draw an inference?" inquired Whately. It is curious how many now popular jokes and even riddles emanated from the brain of the Archbishop of Dublin: What Joan of Arc was made of; the difference between forms and ceremonies; why a man never starves in the Great Desert, &c. The answer to the following he withheld; it has puzzled many persons who make nothing of a double acrostic, and will probably continue to do so:

When from the Ark's capacious round
The beasts came forth in pairs,
Who was the first to hear the sound
Of boots upon the stairs?

One of his great pleasures was to poke fun at people who will think philosophically upon questions that only require the common sense of common men. He propounded to a whole roomful of divines the problem: "Why do white sheep eat so very much more than black sheep?" There were all sorts of reasons suggested. One profound person thought since black attracted the sun, that black sheep could get on with less nutriment than the others. Dr. Whately shook his head: "White sheep eat more because there are more of them."

The archbishop was the very personification of shrewdness, and he was not afraid to say what he thought.

"Concealment," he observed, "is a good spur to curiosity, which gives an interest to investigation, and the *Letters of Junius* would have been long forgotten if the author could have been clearly pointed out at the time." This is very true, though few would have had the courage to say it. The *Letters of Junius* are inferior to those of *The Englishman* (also, by-the-bye, anonymous,) published in the *Times* newspaper some years ago, and even inferior to many of the biting personal articles (beneath contempt, viewed in that light) printed later still in the *Queen's Messenger*.

Lord John Russell, like "Single-speech Hamilton," said one good thing, on which we believe his reputation in that line rests; he defined a proverb as "The wisdom of many and the wit of one." Rogers observed it was the only saying for which he envied any man, and Rogers was a good judge. Sydney Smith said of the latter's slow habit of composition, that "when he produced a couplet he went to bed, the knocker was tied up, straw laid down, the candle made, and that the answer to inquiries was, that Mr. Rogers was as well as could be expected." And he was almost as elaborate with his sayings as with his verses. When they were said, however, they were very good. "When Croker wrote his review in the *Quarterly* upon Macaulay's *History*, Rogers remarked that he had 'attempted murder, but committed suicide.'"

A great advantage bestowed on us by the publication of these volumes is that they contain several famous things which are not to be found elsewhere, or only with much difficulty. One of these is Lord Byron's *Question and Answer* upon Rogers, which (if we remember right) is suppressed, and at all events is not to be found in many editions of his works; another, of a very different kind, is Albert Smith's "Engineer's Story," which used to convulse the audience in the Egyptian Hall. Of course one misses the hubble-bubble of the pipe, and the inimitable manner with which the narrator informed us: "He told me the stupidest story I ever heard in my life, and now I am going to tell it to you."

There are some very disappointing things in this work, which, however, are not to be laid at the door of Mr. Timbs; a good many wits appear in it, who—for all that is related of them—never made a witticism. Dr. Maginn, for example, had a great reputation, but it has not outlived him, and nothing we read here of him impresses us favourably, or indeed at all. "Father Prout" also, as the Rev. Francis Mahoney called himself, may have been a most charming companion, but he is very dull reading. We are afraid that whiskey had a good deal to do with the exhilaration experienced in their society by these gentlemen's friends. Even John Hookham Frere—when he comes to be "fried," as the Americans call it—was not so much of a joker, and made a little wit go a very long way. It is true the farther we go back the less likely it is that good *sayings* should be preserved; but those that *are* preserved should be worth hearing. On the other hand, all that is written stands on the same ground, and it is certain that the examples given of the more modern writers are much superior to those of their elder brothers.

Of the seniors, Canning is one of the most remarkable, though the impression that he was greatly overrated by his contemporaries is not to be eluded. In many respects he reminds us of the living Disraeli. Moore says of him, in his *Life of Sheridan*, that he joined the Tories "because of the difficulties which even genius like his would experience in rising to its full growth under the shadowy branches of the Whig aristocracy;" and generally the interest attaching to him, as in the case of the present Premier, is of a personal character. His mode of life was, for statesmen of that day, domestic, and he is said to have invented the now popular game of "Twenty Questions." In the example here given of it, however, the answers are not simply "Yes" and "No," so that the thing which is to be guessed must have been very much more easily arrived at, and his "power of logicial division" need not have been overwhelming. As a drawing-room wit he had a great reputation; but as a statesman, Sydney Smith gives this characteristic account of him: "His being 'in office' is like a fly in amber. Nobody cares about the fly; the only question is, How the mischief did it get there? When he is jocular, he is strong; when he is serious, he is like Samson in a wig. Call him a legislator, a reasoner, and the conductor of the affairs of a great nation, and it seems to me as absurd as if a butterfly were to teach bees to make honey. That he is an extraordinary writer of small poetry, and a diner-out of the highest metre, I do most readily admit." He certainly said some very injudicious things in parliament; for example, his description of the American navy—"Half-a-dozen fir frigates with bits of bunting flying at their heads"—excited Cousin Jonathan, as it well might, beyond all bounds. He compared Lord Sidmouth (Mr. Addington), because he was included in every ministry, to the small-pox, "since everybody must have it once in their lives." His wittiest verses perhaps occur in the poem composed on the tomb of Lord Anglesey's leg, at Waterloo:—

Here rest five little ones repose,
Twin-born with other five;
Unheeded of their brother toes,
Who all are now alive.

A leg and foot, to speak more plain,
Lie here of one commanding;
Who though he might his wits retain,
Lost half his understanding. . . .

And in England, just as gay,
As in the battle brave,
Goes to the rout, the ball, the play,
With one leg in the grave. . . .

Fate but indulged a harmless whim;
Since he could *walk* with one,
She saw two legs were lost on him
Who never meant to *run*.

A very lively poem, no doubt; but how inferior, when compared with one on a somewhat similar subject by Thomas Hood, namely *Ben Battle*:—

Said he: "Let others shoot,
For here I leave my *second* leg,
And the *forty-second foot*."

Comparisons, however, are odious; and it would be especially odious to Mr. Canning to pursue this one.

Of the once famous Captain Morris, we read that his poems reached a twenty-fourth edition. But where are they now? His verses were principally Anacreontic; his *To my Cup* received the gold cup from the Harmonic Society; but they are greatly inferior to Tom Moore's. In Hood's line, however, he was more successful, and his *Town and Country* might well have been written by that great humorist himself:—

Oh, but to hear a milkmaid blithe,
Or early mower whet his scythe
The dewy meads among!
My grass is of that sort, alas!
That makes no hay—called sparrow-grass
By folks of vulgar tongue.

Where are ye, birds that blithely wing
From tree to tree, and gaily sing,
Or mourn in thicket deep?
My cuckoo has some ware to sell,
The watchman is my Philomel,
My blackbird is a sheep!

The above is excellent; nor is the Captain less felicitous in describing the other view of the subject—which was no doubt his own—namely, the disadvantages of a rustic life:

In London I never know what to be at,
Enraptured with this, and transported with that;
. . . .
Your jays and your magpies may chatter on trees,
And whisper soft nonsense in groves, if you please;
But a house is much more to my mind than a tree;
And for groves—oh, a fine grove of chimneys for me.
. . . .
Then in town let me live and in town let me die,
For in truth I can't relish the country, not I.
If I must have a villa, in London to dwell,
Oh, give me the sweet shady side of Pall-Mall.

It is sad to think that the last line will be almost the only one familiar to our readers, and that the memory of the gallant captain has died away, not indeed "from all the circle of the hills," but from the London squares he loved, and which knew him so well.

It is not as a wit that Samuel Taylor Coleridge is chiefly famous, but his *Table-talk* contains many things that would have made the reputation of a diner-out; sometimes they are metaphorical, as when, upon a friend of Fox's, who would take the very words out of his mouth, and always put himself forward to interpret him, he observed that the man always put him in mind of the steeple of St. Martin's on Ludgate Hill, which is constantly getting in the way when you wish to see the dome of St. Paul's. Sometimes they are philosophic, as when he remarked that all women past seventy, whom ever he knew, were divided into three classes—1. That dear old soul; 2. That old woman; 3. That old witch. And again, they are sometimes purely witty, as, "Some men are like musical glasses—to produce their finest tones, you must keep them wet."

Coleridge has also left some fine definitions, which are only not witty because of their wisdom. He compares a single Thought to a wave of the sea, which takes its form from the waves which precede and follow it; and Experience to the sternlights of a ship, which illumine only the track it has passed.

His epigram on a bad singer is excellent:

Swans sing before they die; 'twere no bad thing
Should certain persons die before they sing.

With respect to the Irish wits who are introduced in these volumes, the reader is in many cases disposed to imagine that some of the joke must lie in the brogue, which print is unable to render; but Curran is a brilliant exception. There is nothing more humorous in the whole work than the account of his duel with Judge Egan. The latter was a big man, and directed the attention of the second to the advantage which in this respect his adversary had over him.

"He may hit me as easily as he would a haystack, and I might as well be aiming at the edge of a knife as at his lean carcase."

"Well," said Curran, "let the gentleman chalk the size of my body on your side, and let every ball hitting outside of that go for nothing."

Even Sydney Smith never beat this; but he said many things as humorous as this one of Curran's, and indeed was always saying them. Here is one, also, as it happens, respecting fat and leanness. Speaking of having been shampooed at Mahommed's Baths at Brighton, he said: "They squeezed enough out of me to make a lean curate." Every one knows the advice he gave to the Bishop of New Zealand, just before his departure for that cannibal diocese: "A bishop should be given to hospitality, and never be without a smoked little boy in the bacon-rack and a cold missionary on the sideboard." The above is perhaps the best example of the lengths to which Sydney Smith's imagination would run in the way of humour; as the following is the most characteristic stroke of Jerrold's caustic tongue. At a certain supper of sheeps' heads a guest was so charmed with his fare that he threw down his knife and fork, exclaiming: "Well, say I, sheeps' heads for ever!" "There's egotism," said Jerrold.

There is nothing, it has been written, so dreary as a jest book; and for fear our article on this subject should come under the same condemnation, we here bring it to a conclusion, with a cordial expression of approval of the cake from which we have extracted so many plums.

[*] They played long-whist in those times; we should say of course "at four" nowadays.

Mr. Henry Irving's name has served to add a point to a good story. He lately arrived in an English provincial town at the same time with Myer's circus. An old-school tragedian happened to be "starring" there at the time, and one day was met on the street by an old friend, who asked him how he was doing. "Bad, bad as bad can be," croaked the tragedian—"not quarter houses!" The sympathising friend condoled with him and finally wound up by saying, "But then you must remember Mr. Irving is a very popular actor." "Mr. Irving!" exclaimed the tragic one. "Hang Mr. Irving! I'll star against Mr. Irving anywhere; but I'd like to know who is to star against twelve performing elephants?"

The Montreal *Witness* of a recent date has the following:—"A French Canadian family in West End has recently been bereaved of two of the large number of children, who died of the dreadful epidemic which is still prevalent in our midst. The mother of the family had been urged by a neighbour to have the children vaccinated, and a public vaccinator, upon recommendation went to the house, and by entreaties and threats endeavoured to persuade her to lay aside her false prejudices and allow the vaccination to be performed; but all to no purpose. Within three weeks from this time, two of the children took ill of small-pox, and forthwith the ignorant mother sent for the above physician and wished him to vaccinate them; which, of course, he did not do, but advised that the rest of the children be removed out of the way of danger of infection and be vaccinated. This precaution was determinedly rejected, and they have all remained exposed to the contagion of which the two have died."

The Welland *Telegraph*, Feb. 2nd, has the following story:—"On the morning of Wednesday of last week information was laid before A. G. Hill, of Clifton, by Benjamin Lundy, of Lundy's lane, Drummondville, that on the previous night his father's residence was entered by some person or persons and a large amount of money stolen. He stated that the stairs were strewn with loose coin, supposed to have been dropped by the robbers in their hasty flight. Detective Wynn, of the Ontario Police, was detailed to ferret out the culprits, and on visiting the place he found that between two and three hundred dollars was lost, including sixty-three dollars belonging to Mr. Shaw, a school teacher, who boarded there, but which was that night in a box in the room occupied by a traveller for a Beamsville firm, in the absence of Mr. Shaw. Wynn got Benjamin Lundy, in the absence of his father, to accompany him to Clifton again to aid him in the search for the culprits. On their way Wynn gained such information from his companion as to throw a little suspicion on him, and on arriving at Clifton the detective charged him with the crime, and proceeded to search him, when sixty-three dollars were found secreted on his person, he having previously stated that he had only twenty-five dollars. Lundy was at once placed in custody, and Wynn returned to search the premises, when the box which was stolen was found in an oat-bin at Lundy's house, broken open and the sum of sixty-one dollars still in it. Lundy was therefore tried before A. G. Hill and sent to Welland gaol for trial, which will take place in a few weeks. The sad occurrence has cast a gloom over the young man's family and friends, as they have always been highly and deservedly esteemed, and it is yet hoped that the son may be proved innocent of the crime."

THE POET IN THE CITY.

The Poet stood in the sombre town,
And spake to his heart, and said,—
"O weary prison, devised by man!
Unseasonless place, and dead!"
His heart was sad, for afar he heard
The sound of the Spring's light tread.

He thought he saw in the pearly East
The pale March sun arise,
The happy housewife beneath the thatch,
With hand above her eyes,
Look out to the cawing rooks, that built
So near to the quiet skies.

Out of the smoke, and noise, and sin,
The heart of the Poet cried,—
"O God! but to be Thy labourer there,
On the gentle hill's green side!
To leave the struggle of want and wealth,
And the battle of lust and pride!"

He bent his ear, and he heard afar
The growing of tender things,
And his heart broke forth with the travailing earth,
And shook with the tremulous wings
Of sweet brown birds, that had never known
The dirge of the city's sins.

And later, when all the earth was green
As the Garden of the Lord,
Primroses opening their innocent face,
Cowslips scattered abroad;
Blue-bells mimicking summer skies,
And the song of the thrush outpoured,—

The changeless days were so sad to him,
That the Poet's heart beat strong,
And he struggled as some poor caged lark,
And he cried, "How long, how long?
I have missed a Spring I can never see,
And the singing of birds is gone!"

But when the time of the roses came,
And the nightingale hushed her lay,
The Poet, still in the dusty town,
Went quietly on his way,—
A poorer poet by just one Spring,
And a richer man by one suffering.

C. C. FRASER TYTLER.

—*Spectator, London.*

RUTH DARNEL'S REVENGE.

PART I.

As Ruth Darnel sat under a magnificent sycamore-tree on the little lawn in front of her mother's cottage, she formed a picture which Mr. Leslie would have delighted to paint, and which might have inspired a poet.

A woman may look very striking as queen of the ballroom, or holding a kind of *levee* in a box at the Opera, but real loveliness never shows to such effect as amid the surroundings of Nature.

Nothing could have framed Ruth so well as the dark leaves of the sweeping sycamore which drooped nearly to the ground behind her, and threw soft shadows which suited her face to perfection. That face was pale, with classic outline, dark hair low on her brows, and eyes of velvet fringed with long lashes. It was a face which could be calm enough in repose, but which had within it possibilities of fierce anger and enduring emotion. It was a face that could suffer patiently enough, but had little forgiveness in it. Moreover the broad white brow and lustrous eyes told a true tale of a cultivated intelligence and power of thought. Such was Ruth Darnel as we first see her sitting idly beneath the sycamore-tree on the lawn.

It had been well for Ruth Darnel that her mind had been carefully cultivated, for she had comparatively early in life to go out as a governess; Mrs. Darnel, the widow of a clergyman, being left nearly penniless when her husband died. At the time of which we are writing, however, she had come into a small annuity, and was enabled to have Ruth at home with her in a little cottage in Surrey, only a short distance from London.

Ruth Darnel had not known very pleasant experiences when a governess. No doubt governesses are very much better treated nowadays than of old; they are seldom the persecuted beings they have been represented in fiction; but at the same time a governess' is not the happiest life in the world, and the roses, if any, which strew such a path have, we suspect, more than their fair share of thorns. Occasionally a governess gets the upper hand in a family of *nouveaux riches* (after the manner of the immortal Miss Wirt) by a command of the aspirate, and an avoidance of her knife as a means for the consumption of peas—both high and unattainable accomplishments to certain people.

But Ruth Darnel had found her romance even in the hard and monotonous toil of a governess' life, and in it she was supremely happy.

She had met in one of the families in which she had taught a young subaltern in the army, a certain Reginald Tremaine, who, struck by her charms, and completely subjugated by the wonderful eyes, had made fierce love to her, which Ruth returned with all the intensity of her nature. And she did so after many warnings. Tremaine, as the saying runs, was not a bad young fellow, but he was fond of pleasure, and his was a shallow nature, wholly unable to respond to such love as Ruth's. Moreover he was extravagant, and seldom could keep within the allowance made him by his father. It was the old story. Tremaine was handsome, and fancied himself very much in love with his beautiful Ruth; and she, only looking to the sunshine of the present, never dreamt of shadows in the future, and was supremely happy.

This arrangement annoyed no one so much as a certain John Morton, Ruth's cousin, older than herself, but devotedly attached to her ever since she was a child. The time had been when John had hinted at his hopes; but the peal of merry laughter which greeted him, and the sisterly frankness with which he was answered, had caused him to dismiss those hopes for ever, and to put up with the cold and pale lilies of friendship instead of the roses of love.

Of course, even when he had not the slightest hope for himself, he was insanely jealous of every other man. He was furious at Ruth's engagement to Tremaine, and had made a prediction about Reginald which caused Ruth to flash out at him in impetuous anger. He had warned her, not politely, it must be admitted, that Reginald would one day run through his money, and then desert her for an heiress. But he did not say it again, for the fierce glance of Ruth's eyes and her bitter words haunted him for many a day after.

And in truth it seemed a very unkind remark, for the young lover was most devoted and attentive; and whatever might be the attractions of London, near which he was quartered, he seemed to find greater ones in the little garden at the Darnel's cottage.

So one summer followed another, until Mrs. Darnel, gentle soul as she was, began to get uneasy. Her health was not good, and she would fain have seen Ruth happily married before she slept beside her husband "amid the cold *Hic jacets* of the dead."

Not that Ruth had any such thoughts—the dream of love was sufficient; but they were quite natural in the mother. Moreover Mrs. Darnel fancied that while Reginald Tremaine did not come quite so often, he seemed to be in a very feverish and excited state when he did come, as if something he did not like to reveal brought a flush into his cheek and a strange light to his eyes.

Gentle Mrs. Darnel made up her mind to interrogate Ruth as judiciously as possible, and one day said,

"Ruth dear, have you noticed lately that Mr. Tremaine has not been quite himself when he has been here—that he was very strange and excited?"

Ruth mentally noted the "Mr. Tremaine" instead of "Reginald," and determined to stick to her guns. "No, mamma," she said, "I have noticed nothing"—that was the truth, her affection blinded her—"except that he is a dearer fellow than ever." That was unnecessary, but it was a return shot for the "Mr. Tremaine."

"Well," said Mrs. Darnel, "I must say I have noticed a change, and I don't think he comes quite so often as he used to do."

The shot told. Ruth had noticed that herself, but it was very unkind of her mother, she thought, to have found it out too. What did it matter to mamma? Reginald was not *her* lover.

But she answered quietly, "I suppose he has been detained in town."

Mrs. Darnel sighed, and said, "Ah, my dear, I wish I could see you happily married before—before I have to leave you."

"O mamma, don't say such horrid things!" cried Ruth; "and how unkind of you to want to be rid of me!" and then she fell to petting and consoling her mother. But the minds of both were full of the conversation.

Part of what Mrs. Darnel had said was true. Reginald did not come down to the cottage so often. Ruth was obliged to own that to herself with intense vexation of spirit; but was there anything in the other accusation? for so she named it in her heart. What did mamma mean? How was Reginald changed? He had been rather restless and uneasy, but there was nothing in that. And yet, when she asked herself deliberately whether some of the recent interviews with him had been as sweet as of old, she was forced to confess that there was an indefinable something—she could give it no name—which was not quite satisfactory.

Having settled that in her own mind she went up-stairs and indulged in what she would have called "a good cry," and then, after studying one or two of Reginald's nicest letters—she kept them marked in a particular way—she dried her eyes, and decided that it was all nonsense, and that she was a very fortunate girl; that her mother was far too suspicious, and Reginald was perfect, and so forth. But the little rift had come, let her bear herself as bravely as she might, and the music of life was not quite so full-toned as before.

Several days passed, and Reginald never appeared, until he had been absent longer than ever she had remembered during her engagement. And then, just as her heart was becoming numb with sorrow and with hope deferred, there came the following letter:—

"Aldershot, June 1. 18—.

"My darling Ruth,—It cuts me to the heart to have to write this to you; but the fact is, dearest, I have got to the end of my tether, and I shall be forced to give you up. Unless, as people say, I "marry money," I shall have to cut the country. It is hard upon me, and I am afraid it will be hard upon you; but whatever happens, I shall always be your loving

"Reggie."

Surely a more heartless and utterly unmanly letter was never penned. Nor one more insulting; for while he told her indirectly he was going to marry a rich wife, he still continued his caressing epithets, and assured her he should always love her. Ruth's hero was showing himself in his true colours, and, terrible as the blow was to her, she was stung by this letter into hot indignation against the writer.

It was perhaps as well for her that this