// Huron Signal.

WEEKLY EDITION.

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

$1.50 PER ANN. IN ADVANCE} GODERICH, C. W., THURSDAY, NOV. 9, 1865. {VOL. XVIII.—NO 41

Business Directory.

CANADIAN HOTEL,
CLINTON, C. W.
W. TUDSBURY, Proprietor.

THE establishment is furnished with all the requirements essential to the comfort of guests. w34tf

DAYS' HOTEL WROXETER

IS situated on the Gravel Road running from Seaforth to Southampton, one mile north of where it leads off to Wroxeter, and any one traveling to

Belmore. Walkerton, Southampton,

or any place in that direction, will find accommodation such as he only expects to find at first class city hotels, in all respects.

ICE ALWAYS ON HAND FOR HIS **Trout-Fishing Friends!**

THE BUILDINGS COVER A LENGTH OF **A HUNDRED AND FIFTY FEET**

CHARLES DAYS,
w46-1. Proprietor.

Commercial Hotel. Mitchell C.W

JOHN HICKS, Proprietor. This is the largest and best Country Hotel in Western Canada, and charges as moderate as any House in Mitchell. Stage Proprietor. Good stabling for 100 Horses. Horses and Carriages for Hire, on the Shortest Notice 14-7

For Sale at a Bargain.

THAT valuable and eligibly situated property in the Town of Goderich fronting the Court House Square, and for eighteen years known as

'THE FARMERS' INN,'

During which time it has enjoyed one of the largest portions of that business in the town. Connected with the hotel is a general store. The whole are built of stone and brick, 47 × 37, three stories high, and commodious cellars 8 feet deep. Attached to the hotel is a two story framed dwelling house, outhouses, &c.

ALSO:—A small farm of excellent land, handsomely located one mile from Goderich on the Bayfield Road, 30 acres in good state of cultivation, well fenced, 25 of which are clear of stumps, with a hewn log house 30 × 20, and a cedar log barn 40 × 24, sheds, &c.,

ALSO:—In the Village of Port Albert ¼ acre with dwelling house and stables, &c, one of the best tavern stands in that place, and has long been kept as such.

Terms liberal; to suit purchasers. For further particulars apply to
J. B. GORDON, Esq.
or ANDREW DONOGH, Proprietor.

N. B.—All those indebted to me either by note or book account are requested to settle the same without delay in order to save costs.

Goderich, April 31st, 1864. w9 td

Mortgage Sale of Lands

UNDER and by virtue of a Power of Sale contained in a Mortgage made by Richard Darlington of the Township of Colborne, in the County of Huron, Yeoman, of the first part, and Ann Darlington, his wife, of the second part, (for the purpose of barring her dower), default having been made in the due payment thereof; will be sold on Tuesday, the twenty-first day of November, A. D., 1865, at twelve of the clock, noon, at the Auction Mart of George M. Trueman, Market Square, Goderich, the following property, that is to say, Being composed of lot No. (4) four, on the seventh (7th) concession, eastern division of the said township of Colborne, containing one hundred acres of land, more or less. Deed under Power of Sale
M. C. CAMERON,
Solicitor for Mortgagee.
Goderich, October 19th, 1865. w39

FARM FOR SALE

LOT No 1. 11th concession, township of Colborne. Apply to
M. C. CAMERON.
Goderich, Oct. 20, 1865. w39t

VALUABLE FARM FOR SALE!

LOT No. 10, Con. 3, Township of Goderich, containing Eighty acres, more or less, sixty of which are clear of stumps, and under a high state of cultivation, with a first class stone dwelling, frame barn, stable and out-sheds, two large orchards bearing fruit, and a never failing spring creek running through the property.

For terms, &c., apply to the subscriber at the Goderich Woolen Factory office, East St.
THOS. LOGAN.
Goderich, 13th Oct., 1865. w38tf

FOR SALE.

LOTS 1,67, to 13,77, near the RAILWAY STATION, Goderich, for $150 each.

At Five Years Credit,

or longer if required. Apply to
M. C. CAMERON.
Goderich April 8th, 1864 sw62w11

Farm in Bosanquet
FOR SALE
OR TO LET.

THE UNDERSIGNED offers for sale or to let lot 20, 12th con., township of Bosanquet, County of Lambton. The farm consists of

ONE HUNDRED ACRES,

sixty of which are cleared, and situated near a station of the G. T. Railway. There is a *LOG DWELLING HOUSE AND FRAME BARN* on the lot.

WELL TIMBERED & WATER'D

For particulars apply to
M. C. GORDON,
Goderich P. O
August 11th, 1865. w27tf

STRAYED from the subscriber, during the past summer, A Dark Brown Filly, coming three years old; not large, but very stout; small white star on the forehead. Any person giving information leading to her recovery will be suitably rewarded
S. POLLOCK,
Deputy Sheriff.
Goderich, October 14, 1865. w38

COLT ESTRAY.

STRAYED from the undersigned, lot 33, Hullett, on the 9th inst., a small darkish bay mare foal, with a star in the forehead, was seen near Smith's Hill between the 9th and 12th. Any person giving information leading to its recovery will be suitably rewarded.
AUGUST KRUSE.
Blythe p. o.
Hullett, October 16th, 1865. w38

Meggie Courtenaye's Lovers.

(CONTINUED.)

CHAPTER V.

THE DAYS grew into weeks, the weeks into months, and January approached—the month that was to see Mrs. Courtenaye once more mistress of Courtenaye Grange.

Meggie disliked her future father as much as ever, and avoided him on all occasions.—As yet all her efforts had been unsuccessful to obtain a situation as governess; she advertised, she answered advertisements; but alas! she had had no experience in teaching. What, though she had been highly educated, and named as references some old friends of her father's of good social position? Experience was wanting, and she had none.

We do not blame the matrons who refused her services; but it did seem hard to Meggie that for this reason, and this only, she should be denied the means of honest independence. At first she had answered only the better class of advertisements requiring the accomplishments she possessed. Then she lowered her standard, and finally replied to all that came in her way, resolved to accept anything that would just supply her few requirements.

Week after week she patiently waited, suffering many a supercilious rebuff, yet finding courage to try again and yet again. How often during those weary weeks was her head bowed and her heart sunk under its load of anxiety and care no one ever knew but herself. She shrank with untold dread from the approach of that wedding, and her independence was not yet achieved.

At last it came, the letter that relieved all this load of dread; her services were accepted in a farmhouse in a county far distant from the metropolis, as instructress to five children, whom she was to teach English, French, German, music, (vocal and instrumental), dancing and drawing, for a salary of four-and twenty pounds a year, that to include all incidental expenses.

Meggie never hesitated. She showed this to her mother, who for once roused herself from her languid ease to persuade her to give up this Utopian scheme of independence, and once more permit herself to be looked upon as heiress of Courtenaye Grange. "For, Meggie," she said, "I may as well tell you, this is almost as great a disappointment to Mr. Shore as myself."

Meggie's sweet lip quivered for an instant, and her eyes filled with tears. "Mamma, you have heard my decision," she said. "I can not alter it."

"You are a wilful girl!" cried her mother. "Do as you please. But, Meggie, you must give me one promise that you will spend your holidays at the Grange."

"Mamma," said Meggie, and her voice was low and broken, "I can give no promise; perhaps when he is really my father I may like him better. But oh, mamma, it is so hard, so terribly hard to me to forget the past!"

Mrs. Courtenaye roused herself to kiss her, then fell languidly back upon her couch.

"There now, go and answer the letter as you think best," she said. "I am tired of these repeated scenes, Meggie. I declare, after you have been here, I feel to have no life for anything."

Meggie retired to her own room, and dispatched her acceptance of Mrs. Duncome's offer.

Where was Sir Carl Goodacre all this time? He had been absent for weeks, and only returned to town the previous day.

Meggie had just sealed and sent her letter to the post when she was summoned to the drawing-room, to receive Sir Carl, for Mrs. Courtenaye felt unequal to the task.

There was a bright light in Meggie's cheeks and eyes as she advanced with outstretched hand to Sir Carl, that had become very unusual to them of late. Sir Carl noted both, and probably drew his own conclusions, for he asked smilingly, "Well, Meggie, how about the governess-ship?"

"I have just posted my acceptance of a situation, Sir Carl," replied Meggie, with a little—ever so little—curl of her short upper lip.

"You were in earnest, then?" said Sir Carl. "My poor little child, do you dislike Mr. Shore so much?"

"Dislike is too strong a word," said Meggie; "it was he who destroyed my poor father's happiness, and made life a burden to him, and I will never be dependent upon him for the least thing. Meet him I can and will, as my mother's husband; more he must not expect."

"May I know what sort of a family is to be honored by receiving into its circle my peerless Meggie?" asked Sir Carl.

Meggie smiled and placed Mrs. Duncome's explanatory letter in his hand. He read it through, then crushed it up in his palm, with one angry exclamation against Mrs. Duncome's want of conscience.

"Meggie," said he, "you have not pledged yourself to this in preference to Courtenaye Grange?"

"I have," she replied, brightly. "I think it decidedly preferable; I shall be independent."

"Independent!" he exclaimed; "yes, the sort of independence the poor wretches at the tread-mill can boast. You will nullify that acceptance to please me, Meggie."

"No, I cannot," she replied, though her color went and came and her bosom heaved.

"Meggie," he continued, "you must not undertake this; you do not know the drudgery of a governess's life; my darling, let me save you from it. There is one way still open by which you may avoid all claim upon Mr. Shore: overlook the wide difference in our ages, and become my wife. Meggie, since first I held you a tiny infant in my arms, I have loved you as I thought never again to love anything in this life. If you will let me, all that remains of it shall be devoted to making you happy."

Meggie hid her face in her hands and burst into tears.

"No, no, I cannot," she sobbed; "it would be wrong."

"Ah, Meggie," said Sir Carl, "I might have known this blighted life, and this worn-out old frame were not fit to be offered to anything so bright and fresh as yourself; still, I could offer you a devoted affection and an honorable name and position."

"It is not that. No, no, I would not think of your age, did I love you as you deserve; but I do not, I cannot," said Meggie, greatly distressed.

"Then, Meggie, I will mention it no more," said he; "I only thought, if you loved me, it was a mission which even an angel might undertake, to make an old man happy."

Yes, if she were his daughter, she could make him happy. But marriage should be a holy estate, and only one thing can consecrate it—a true and honest love, one that shall endure through time and trial until death; ay, and after that.

As Meggie looked at him now, his handsome form bowed, his strong hand shaking, she thought of all her past reverent affection for him. All other friends estranged by poverty, her mother about to place an insuperable barrier between them, Philip dead, all the bright hopes of her youth destroyed—might not she be following both duty and inclination to bid him, as he wished, love and care for her evermore? Meggie's mind was in a whirl. Ah, if she could but do that, without taking those vows that promised the love she did not possess, then she would not have hesitated to sacrifice herself. But Meggie believed steadfastly that wrong can never be right; that a single false step, one concession, and it would bring in its train evils both to the actor and to those for whom the wrong was done. It could never add to Sir Carl Goodacre's happiness to have an unloving wife, be she ever so dutiful. So she only reiterated, "No, no, it would be wrong."

"As a friend, my darling, I ought to place this offer fully before you in another light," said Sir Carl. "Have you thought how wide will be the difference in your position in that farm-house, and as Lady Goodacre? Young ladies are not wont to be as indifferent to such advantages of rank and station; and, Meggie, you have been educated for them, accustomed to them. You are fitted to adorn the society I could place you in. You should consider all this; take time, and give me your answer a few days hence."

Meggie favored him with one full, bright smile, its exact meaning he could not fathom; then her eyes fell and her lip quivered.

"Can you imagine," said she, "that you can put any greater temptation in my path than you did when you said I could make an old man happy?"

"Meggie," said he, taking her hand, and raising it reverently to his lips, "I might have known, could I have believed that angels walked the earth in mortal guise. Can nothing alter your determination?"

"Nothing, for I believe it a right one," she replied, in a firm, though scarcely audible tone.

"God bless you, my child, for that you must ever be, and reward you for the noble spirit you have shown," said the baronet.—"Meggie," he continued, "you will not allow this to interrupt our friendship, or let it raise one barrier of reserve between us? You must write to me as frankly as you would have done had nothing of the kind occurred; tell me all your difficulties, and your troubles."

Meggie gave the promise with tearful, grateful eyes.

Long after Meggie had left him Sir Carl sat there in deep, uninterrupted thought.

(Continued on 2nd page.)

Huron Signal.

GODERICH, NOV. 9, 1865

DEATH OF LORD PALMERSTON.

The *City of Boston* brings us the sad news that Lord PALMERSTON died on the 18th of October. Taking a severe cold, he gradually grew worse until death put an end to his suffering and plunged the British nation into mourning. The brave old veteran died in harness—at the post which he has filled with so much ability for the past 12 years. His history is graven upon the memory of every reader of the Imperial or Colonial press, and it is unnecessary for us now to do more than announce the sad tidings. It is conjectured that Earl Russell will succeed him as Premier.

THE COUNTY PLOUGHING MATCH.

IN OUR report of the great ploughing match, which, notwithstanding serious difficulties, we contrived by a free use of mail and telegraph to have upon the press in the Weekly *Signal* at 8 o'clock on the following morning, we were compelled of course to condense our remarks as much as possible. The incidents, however, attending the competition were not of great importance—the work itself engrossing the attention of all. The field opened to the Mens' Class, although passable, was not very equal, some of the lands being quite rough, and deficient in surface soil, and yet on one of the inferior plots Mr. Thomas contrived to take away the splendid first prize. He is a most excellent ploughman, and it is very questionable if any other man in the Province, under similar circumstances, could have made a more beautiful ridge. Ward, the next prize-taker in order, did extremely well, and in fact a good many thought for a time that he was to be the fortunate one. As the work proceeded in the afternoon, and the lands began to narrow, it became much easier to guess at the probably successful competitors. The men themselves were aware of this, for a good many of them, knowing they had little or no chance, slashed away to get done in time anyhow without taking particular pains. The plouing was not all done in the prescribed time, but after some squabbling, it was decided to overlook the rule in consideration of the very unfavorable state of the weather at starting. We may say that the decision of the judges in this class was given in good time, and was generally concurred in by all present.

Mr. Samuel Carnochan and his family deserve great credit for the hearty hospitality tendered to visitors, ploughmen, &c, and which was accepted by so many that the tables were surrounded nearly all day by hungry guests. A number also enjoyed a good dinner at Mr. Robert Carnochan's. There were some six or seven whiskey booths on the ground, and as they were patronized pretty freely all day, the usual effects were visible towards evening. Men became jovial, loving, reckless, moody, stupid, noisy or quarrelsome, according to their natural predilections, and there was a good deal of confusion in consequence. In a scuffle that took place one poor fellow had a piece of his nose bitten off. His assailant, in order to escape the beating he would have received, 'cut' for Clinton as fast as a horse and buggy could carry him. We believe a warrant has been issued for his arrest.

The field used by the Boys was 1½ miles distant, and was a decided improvement upon Mr. Carnochan's. The boys, as we have said, made excellent work,—better on the whole than the men, and it may be safely predicted that when years add experience to their present skill and toughness to their muscles they will worthily fill the places at present filled by older ploughmen. Indeed, the old hands must look to their laurels, or they will be rudely snatched away by eager youthful fingers.

We have heard some loud complaints regarding the decision of the judges in the Boys' Class, which is pronounced faulty by a good many ploughmen, but whether there were any grounds for the charge of partiality we must leave to more competent critics in such matters.

The promoters of this great match have the satisfaction of knowing that it was one of the best ever witnessed in the Province, with respect to the number of entries, the quality of the work done and the value of the prizes carried away.—Great praise is due to the manufacturers who have come forward so nobly to encourage a most important branch of husbandry, to our representatives for their substantial assistance in getting the affair up, and to the officers of the County Society for their zealous efforts on the occasion. This Match is another proof that the agricultural County of Huron is capable of great things when its people combine their efforts, and we trust that the lessons of Tuesday may teach our people generally the advantages of a union of means, feeling and exertion in order, agriculturally, to secure "The Greatest Possible Good to the Greatest Possible Number!"

THE DINNER,

In connection with the County Ploughing Match, came off at Knox's Hotel, Harpurhey, on Tuesday evening. At the appointed hour the guests were ushered into the large dining room of the hotel, where a good substantial dinner was in readiness for guests of the evening, officers of the society, ploughmen, &c. The Chair was occupied by Robt. Gibbons, Esq., Warden of Huron and Bruce and President of the County Society. The vice chairs were filled by A.M. Ross, Esq., and Geo. Sproat, Esq. On the right of the chairman sat Hon. D. M'Donald, M.L.C., and on the left James Dickson, Esq., M.P.P., both of whom were on the field during the day. Besides those mentioned we noticed around the board Dr. Chalk, D. H. Ritchie, Esq., Thos. Lamb, Esq., Caster Willis, Esq., B. Bell, Esq., of St. George, Dr. Coleman, S. G. McCaughey, Esq., Jas. Torrance, Esq., F. Fowler, Esq., and about fifty other gentlemen from various parts of the county.

After the guests had satisfied themselves with regard to the quality of the roast beef, fowls, vegetables, and dainties provided by the landlord, the cloth was removed and the business of the evening commenced in real earnest.

The chairman proposed in succession the usual loyal toasts of "The Queen," "Prince and Princess of Wales and rest of the Royal Family," "The Governor General," all of which elicited vociferous cheering.

The chairman then rose and proposed the health of Mr. Benjamin Bell, of St. George, who, by the generous gift of a reaping machine, had contributed so largely to the success of the Match held that day. The toast was received with cheers, and "he's a right good fellow," by the company.

Mr. Bell, in response, said he would not attempt to make a speech on the occasion. He earnestly desired to promote the interests of agriculture, and had endeavored to give a substantial proof of his sincerity. He would now simply thank the President for proposing his health, and the company for receiving the toast in such a cordial manner.

The Chairman said amongst those who were donors to the funds for the Ploughing Match, the gentleman on his right had given very liberally, and he had now great pleasure in proposing the health of Hon. D. McDonald, our representative in the Legislative Council. (Cheers.)

The Hon. DONALD MCDONALD, on coming forward to respond was received with a hearty round of applause. He said, Mr. Chairman, Vice Chairman and Gentlemen, I have become so accustomed to expressions of kindness and good will on the part of the farmers of Huron, that I should be guilty of affectation were I to use the language of surprise on this occasion. Come when I may, you treat me in a manner of which the most modest man might well be proud, and for which the least sympathetic might well be grateful. Believe me, I am deeply sensible of the value of the good opinion to which you have just given utterance; for knowing as I do the sturdy honesty, the habitual sincerity, of those whose persistent toil has made this section of the Province what it is, I feel that when you pledge a toast you do it—not as a mere compliment, but on the contrary that you mean all that the words are able to convey. On my part, then, I shall indulge in no unnecessary formalities. Speaking from the heart to the heart, let me say in one word that I thank you. And now let me pass from matters personal to matters general—from the topic that concerns me individually to the topic that concerns all of us as Canadians.—Don't be alarmed, gentlemen. I remember the wise rule that excludes party questions from gatherings of this character, and I am too conscious of its wisdom to think of violating it. Of partisan politics we have more than enough, without dragging them into meetings like this. Parliament has but recently closed its doors, and I dare say that there are very few here who are not more or less surfeited with the speeches and articles, the wrangling and the debates, which tell in every newspaper of the presence of the assembled wisdom. The contest of to-day has been of an infinitely more agreeable character than any to which politics ordinarily give rise (Hear, hear.) We have had a rivalry untainted with jealousy—a competition not marred by envy or ill feeling; and we have ample reason to be satisfied with the result. For whatever estimate we attach to politics, whatever be our predilections and preferences, there can be no difference amongst us in relation to agriculture. Ministers may be turned out, and parliament may exhibit new faces, and to the great bulk of the community the change will matter little. But let the crops suffer, or the farming interests be in any manner injured, and what is the prospect for Canada? The basis of whatever the country is or may become is its agriculture; the men to whom the country is indebted for its progress—I might almost say its creation—and on whom it is dependent for its future, are its farmers. (Cheers.) How happily we are situated in this respect! In the countries of the old world the peasantry have been apostrophized as the source of national greatness. You are familiar with Goldsmith's beautiful lines—

"Ill fares the land, to hastening ills a pray,
Where wealth accumulates and men decay:
Princes and lords may flourish and may fade;
A breath can make them as a breath has made;
But a bold peasantry, their country's pride,
When once destroyed, can never be supplied."

Here, for *peasantry* we substitute *yeomanry.*

Our bold yeomanry, their country's pride,
If once destroyed, could never be supplied.

(Applause.) Ennobling labor, we convert the toiler from a simple peasant into an independent farmer. He toils not for others but for himself and those dear to him. Instead of working all his life for a pittance, he labors with a reasonable certainty that the rewards of labor will accrue to his own advantage. True, bush life in its early stages is a hard life. Its work is heavy and unceasing; its products are small and apparently dearly earned. But there is a future for the poorest backwoodsman. He is a landowner, not a serf; every tree he fells marks his advance toward competency; and the humblest shanty is to him a castle. He sees on every side that which cannot fail to encourage him in his trying but manly struggle. He sees the rich fields, the snug and happy homes of settlers who began bush life in circumstances identical with his own.—He sees enough to convince him that he has but to "labor and to wait;" assured that the prosperity enjoyed by others is also within his reach. (Cheers.) Again, turning to the ploughing matches of to day, we have another illustration of our superiority over old countries. There are ploughing matches on the other side of the Atlantic, and there is fine ploughing there as many in Huron can testify. But I never read the newspaper accounts of the festive proceedings which follow agricultural displays in the old country, without noticing the inferior relation borne by the men who do the ploughing to the gentlemen who do the talking and the prize giving. A social gulf yawns between the two classes—and keeps them separate. The ploughmen are called in after dinner, and the distribution of the prizes is the occasion of a series of patronizing speeches, each serving to remind the reader how little exists in common between the landowner and the peasant. (Loud Cheers.) Here, on the other hand, the competition in the field is carried on by farmers and farmers sons. The men who plough the land are the men who own the land; prompted by an honorable ambition, each strives to excel; and after the day's exertion, all meet at the dinner table on a footing of equality, acknowledging no class superiority, and recognizing no dependence save upon the beneficent Father of all. This difference between Canada and the old country is not the result of political sagacity. It springs from circumstances in no way influenced by government. Indeed, I must confess that politics and politicians, governors and governments, have done very little to help forward this growing and prosperous district. Its progress has been in spite of—not in consequence of—the proceedings of rulers and law makers, who seem to have forgotton that it is possible to strengthen the attachment of a people to the soil, and to add to the attractions of a territory whose heavy timber stands contrasted with the easy farming of the Western prairies. The travelling correspondent of the London Times has remarked upon what he considers a want of attachment in the minds of Canadians to their country. Certainly he may trace some ground for his opinion in the exodus of Canadian youths, who go to seek their fortunes in the Far West. Now, although I have little liking for what is called paternal government—although in my judgment it is not possible, and were it possible would not be desirable by legislation, to achieve for our settlers the prosperity which follows continued thrift and industry—I think that an effort should be made to overcome the disadvantage under which Canada labors as compared with the Western States. We should do something to provide an equivalent to the American Homestead law, which offers to all comers rich, cultivable land at a rate equal only to the cost of survey. As one step in this direction I have urged the throwing open the whole of our unsettled domain, free of cost to actual settlers. (Cheers.) By this measure we should enable the poorest amongst us to obtain a farm; we should retain within our borders the host of farmers and farmers' sons who now annually transfer their allegiance to the neighboring republic; and we should offer inducements to immigrants, who now hurry through Canada as though it were unworthy of their notice. But I do not imagine that by this single measure everything we want would be attained. But I indicate it as a measure in no respect partizan, and one in which the farmers of Huron, Perth and Bruce are deeply interested.—(Continued cheering.) Give us lands free to all settlers, and I shall not be afraid of competition with the West. As between prairie farming and Canadian farming, I am persuaded that the balance of benefits is on the side of the latter. The prairie offers undeniable temptations. It imposes no preliminary drudgery. It awaits the application of the plough, and yields a harvest in a single year. But behind these temptations are drawbacks which it were not easy to exaggerate. If readily cultivated, the prairie may be soon exhausted—it has not the enduring strength and productiveness of our hardwood land. And the scarcity of timber in the prairie States is an obstacle which to my mind would be insuperable.—Good fencing is impossible, good buildings are inevitably expensive—so expensive that to the new-comers they are unattainable; fuel is dear and inferior, though nowhere is the cold more intense or searching. No, no, the prairie may please poets, and tempt those who look not beneath the surface of things; but rather let me have a Canadian bush farm, with its strong fences, its cosy dwelling and substantial outbuildings, its exhaustless reserve of firewood to subdue the rigors of winter's blast; and its soil capable of recompensing munificently every outlay of labor and skill. (Cheers.) Doubtless our neighbors have made wonderful strides: their advancement, considered in the aggregate may be pronounced marvellous. But passing from the whole to the particular parts, I am sure it would be difficult anywhere in the United States to discover a locality in which progress has been more uniform and steady, improvement more surprising or solid, than in the counties of Huron and Perth. I am confident, too, that in the products of the soil we may challenge comparison with any state in the American Union. Our wheat and oats are at least equal—I know competent judges who declare them superior—to the wheat and oats of the United States; while our barley is beyond question superior to anything grown on the continent—so obviously superior that it is eagerly sought by American buyers, and will continue to command a good price, with or without reciprocity. Nor should it be supposed that existing settlements embrace all, or nearly all, the grain-producing land in the province. The fact is indisputable, that the further north certain grains are cultivated the better is their quality; and I believe that a few years will show that barley and oats may be brought to the highest perfection, with profit to the husbandman, in the region of Lake Nipissing, which has hitherto been deemed unworthy of attention. Depend upon it, we may not not despair of Canada. Looking at its resources from an agricultural point of view, they stand unrivalled on the continent. And her people have displayed a tenacity of purpose which inspires the fullest confidence in their destiny. Here, as in other districts, the last few years have been disastrous. Short crops and hard times have told a tale with which everybody has been made familiar.—Still, notwithstanding these discouragements, the spirit of improvement has been at work amongst our farmers; they have kept on their way clearing and fencing and building, and so benefitting the country. This year gives them the reward so patiently worked for, and a bounteous reward it is. We have a splendid crop and prices seem likely to continue high; and as ever, the prosperity of the farmer has brought with it prosperity to the merchant. The despondency which was manifested in some quarters a short time ago has already disappeared: and wherever I go, I find the people prepared to work in the calm, hopeful temper which always helps to perpetuate prosperity. (Loud and continued Applause.)

Mr. Ross, from the Vice-chair, then proposed the health of JAMES DICKSON, Esq., M. P. P., who had been equally generous in contributing to the funds, and who thereby showed as he always did that he had the true interests of his constituents at heart. The complimentary remarks made by Mr. Ross were rendered inaudible to our reporter by the vocal efforts of a tipsy German, who insisted on putting in a word of broken English here and there, and whose efforts, during Mr. Dickson's reply, were ably backed up by a gentleman who appeared to have a great deal of very irrelevant whiskey concealed about his person.

MR. DICKSON on rising to respond was warmly received. He said, Mr. Chairman, Vice-Chairman, and gentlemen, I thank you most sincerely for the toast just drank. I can assure you that I feel deeply the compliment paid by Mr. Ross, and the kind manner in which it has been received by you. This day has certainly recalled many old recollections to my mind. My friend, Mr. Ross, has referred to the fact that I am one of the old pioneers of this section, and I may mention that this great Ploughing Match to-day was held on the very spot where my old father-in-law first pitched his tent in what was then a complete wilderness—if you can call sleeping under a waggon-box pitching a tent. (Laughter.) For 17 long winters and summers I endeavored to hew out for myself a home, and if I have succeeded it is only as the result of that perseverance and energy which marks the career of every other man who has accomplished the same end in this section. Mr. Ross has also alluded to my career in the Township and County Councils. I believe, gentleman, that I have done my share to bring the County of Huron to that state of perfection which it now enjoys, with regard to its Railway and Gravel Road systems. Mr. Chairman, I think we have had a ploughing match to-day which will compare favorably with anything of the kind ever witnessed in the county, and I am bold to say that it would be hard to get up a better match in the Province. When you take into account the number of competitors, the excellence of the work done, the value of the prizes competed for, and the great concourse of spectators, I think you will all agree with me that it has been a great success. (Applause.) I feel that a vote of thanks is due to the President of the County Agricultural Society and his associates for their successful efforts in getting up this match, and I hope that this *great union ploughing match* will be repeated every three years at least, (applause,) and that the same same principle will, as far as possible, be applied to our County Shows. Mr. Dickson then went on to say that for two or three years he had endeavored to get an amended Agriculture Act, in which serious abuses would be forever done away with. Although the County subscribed over $900 the amount received from Government was under $800, whereas other Counties frequently received thrice as much as they paid. It would thus be seen that great injustice was done to this section, (applause,) and he trusted that during the next session of Parliament, if the scheme of Confederation was not carried out, we would at least get justice done us in this direction. His hon. friend from Tecumseth had stated in his address that we in Canada possessed greater blessings than those enjoyed in the United States, and that if he had the disposition of the Crown Domain he would give it free to settlers. He, (Mr. Dickson,) had come to the conclusion that it was not best to give away the lots, for if they were worth anything for agricultural purposes, they were worth paying a trifle for. He thought the Commissioner should be instructed to sell lots of 100 acres for $100, the money to be paid down before the deed was given, which would keep out those confounded speculators. He could assure them, if he *was* branded in a certain newspaper with doing a little land business on his own account that they had not the most distant idea of the wrongs done by heartless speculators. It was quite impossible for a man to work with energy when he did not know but the fruits of his industry might be wrested from him at any moment. He felt this wrong deeply, and as long as he had anything to do with Parliament it would be his study to keep the public lands out of the hands of land sharks and speculators.—Mr. Dickson then touched upon what, in his opinion, was destined to exercise an important influence over our political future—he meant the scheme for the uniting of the British North American Provinces in one grand Confederation. It was to be regretted that, hitherto, some of the Maritime Provinces had shown so much reluctance to enter into such a union with the Canadas. In his opinion there were only two courses open to us: Annexation to the United States, (Voices, No! No!) or carrying out the grand doctrine enunciated by the British Cabinet—and that was a Confederation of the British American Provinces. He was not sure that it would not be better for our interests that we should be joined to the United States.—(Voices, No! no! no!) If there was any place in Canada where the people might be led to favor Annexation it was the line of the Buffalo and Lake Huron Railway, along which intercourse with Americans, commercially, was most intimate and unbroken. The *pocket* consideration was strong, but there was something stronger than that; he gloried in Great Britain, and while there was much in the States that was desirable, there was a something, he could not tell what, that speaks to every Briton, which, if joined to the United States they would have to give up. (Cheers.) The hons. Messrs. Cartier and J. A. Macdonald on one side and Messrs. Brown, Howland and McDougall on the other had formed a Coalition to carry out a scheme of Confederation, and if, during next session, it could not be carried out in its entirity it would be sought to effect a confederation of the Canadas. It was his intention to favor that scheme—not as a finality, but as a door, so to speak, for the entrance of the other Provinces. There was another question of much importance to us, and that was, "What was to become of the young men rising up amongst us?" It was true in the back counties we had about eleven millions of acres of land surveyed, but if they were to believe those well acquainted with the country, the most of that land was comparatively worthless. He had heard one man declare that he had bought 600 acres of that land and when he went out to see it he could have brought back all the soil on its surface in a two bushel bag. (Laughter.) There were in those sections small strips fit for cultivation, but there was no room for schools, churches and the other appliances of civilization. Our young men, then, would have to go to our neighbors or to the North West where there would be full scope for their energies. He thought it would be well for one or two men from each section of Canada to take one or two thousand settlers apiece to the North West, there to make a start in the way of opening the country for a still further tide of emigration. After again thanking those present for the kind reception they had extended to him, Mr. Dickson resumed his seat amid cheers.

Alex. Johnson, Esq., Reeve of Stanley, asked Mr. Dickson if anything had been done for the Bayfield harbor.

Mr. Dickson explained that he had represented the matter to the Government: but the answer was that there was no money to spare. Mr. Johnston, however, should persevere. The improvement of that harbor would be a check on the Railway which was just now destroying them.

Mr. Johnston said he hoped Mr. Dickson would remind these gentlemen in the Ministry, that Bruce had received $12,000 for harbor improvements and Huron nothing.

Mr. Dickson said he must admit that he had favored the grant to Bruce on the ground that it possessed no such improvements at all.

The health of the judges was proposed and briefly responded to by Mr. Steele.

The Vice President proposed "The Successful Competitors," and Mr. Thomas, the first-prize man, responded briefly.

Mr. Dickson proposed the health of Dr. Chalk, who during the past 35 years had done so much to advance the interests of this section of country.

Dr. Chalk responded in a short speech, in the course of which he alluded to the crude systems of cultivation at first alluded to, and the improvements gradually introduced until now we had labor saving machinery equal to any in use in the civilized world. The worthy Dr. expressed his happiness in meeting old friends and witnessing the great progress made in the country since he first became acquainted with it.

The Chairman proposed the Volunteers of Canada. In response Capt. Coleman mentioned the dismissal of Capt. Ross and expressed his regret that it had been brought about. His company had outshone all others in the Province, and if he had been unfairly dealt with he hoped a motion would be introduced into the House to have the papers brought down so that the affair might be properly investigated. This he said of course without intending any slur upon the officers who had recommended the dismissal.

Mr. Dickson proposed the health of D. H. Ritchie, Esq., our late County Clerk. (Applause.)

Mr. Ritchie delivered a short but very interesting speech, in which he depicted graphically many of the toils and hardships he had endured early in life in endeavoring to make a home for himself in that section.

Mr. Sproat proposed the health of Mr. Alex. Thompson, to whose energy in introducing Mr. Bell's machines, they were mainly indebted for bringing about the splendid ploughing match that day witnessed.

Mr. Thompson returned thanks for the compliment.

Mr. Johnston proposed "Robert Gibbons, Esq., Warden of the Counties." (Cheers.)

Mr. Gibbons in reply spoke of the great progress made by the County of Huron, which, now, might be said to stand A. No. 1 in the whole Province. (Cheers.)

Mr. Ritchie then proposed the health of Mr. Ross, Counties Treasurer. In response to the toast, which was loudly applauded, Mr. Ross spoke of the sound financial position of the County. With regard to the Railway debt, he felt satisfied that the money realised by the sale of this year's crop would more than liquidate it. (Applause.)

Mr. Sproat proposed, and the company cordially responded to, the toast of "The Female Pioneers of Huron!"

The chairman proposed "The Press," in connection with the name of Mr. Cox of the *Signal*. Mr. Cox responded briefly.

Mr. Bell proposed "Success to the Agricultural Society of Huron." The President in response expressed the gratification he felt at the result of the day's ploughing. When the proceedings went to the public he felt that they would redound to our credit. He urged the necessity of united effort in affairs of this kind, and trusted they would accomplish still greater things when they came to receive fair play from the government.

Mr. Sproat said the Mechanics and Manufacturers had done nobly in coming forward with their donations, but where were the farmers who had done anything of the kind. He thought it incumbent upon agriculturists, in their own interest, to meet the manufacturers and show that they too were capable of displaying public spirit.

Mr. Dickson proposed "the Bar," which was responded to by Messrs. McCaughay and Vincent.

Several other volunteer toasts followed, after which the main body of the guests retired, but we are informed that a few kept the hot water going until breakfast time next morning.

Everything connected with the dinner, so far as we saw, passed off harmoniously.

☞ In consequence of the insane speculation in produce in the Western States, its movement to the seaboard has been arrested; and it is said that the tonnage west on the railways is actually greater than that going east.

A Western paper speaks of a wild turkey 'shot by a gentleman weighing twenty lbs.' That must have been a large turkey or a very small sportsman.

THE ARTILLERY CO. OYSTER SUPPER.

[From the S. W. Signal of Friday, Nov. 3]

The Oyster Supper given by the Artillery Company to meet their late Captain, A. M. Ross, Esq., and spend a social hour together, was given in the Victoria Hall last night.—The room was decorated for the occasion with British flags, &c. Two tables along its length and one across the head were set for over 100 guests, and at the hour appointed nearly every seat was filled—the gathering besides the members of the Artillery Co'y comprising a considerable number of our most respectable merchants, professional men and others, there being 80 guests present in all.

The chair was occupied by Robt Gibbons, Esq., Warden, and the vice chair by J. S. Sinclair, Esq. Mr. Ross, late Capt of the Goderich Artillery Company, sat at the chairman's right, and Lieut. Kirk on the left.

The supper which was provided by Mr. Clifford, was got up in first rate style, the oysters fresh and plenty of them, and the spices and accompaniments of the best description. After the guests had disposed of a satisfactory quantity of bivalves,

The Chairman rose and said he had been placed in an awkward position, as he did not know the present task would devolve upon him until he entered the room. They had been brought together not to rejoice but to sympathise with Mr. Ross, the late captain of the Goderich Artillery. Before this altercation got up between Capt. Ross and Captain Seymour, the company had got on swimmingly. They did their duty well and every man in the company regretted the action of the Government, but he looked forward to see Mr. Ross not only reinstated to his former position, but acting as Colonel of the District. In the dismissal of Capt. Ross the country had lost an officer whose equal was not to be found perhaps in the ranks of the volunteer service of Canada. He had done everything a man could do in the position, and was as they well knew, able to acquit himself in that position with the best. (Cheers.) Under the circumstances the people of the town, with a very few exceptions deprecated the action of the Government. He would now call upon the gentleman appointed to read the address to Mr. Ross.

Mr. Samuel Pentland then came forward and read the following Address:—

To A. M. ROSS, Esq.:

We, the non-commissioned officers and privates of the Goderich Garrison Artillery Company, would respectfully present you with this address on the unhappy event of your being dismissed from the Volunteer Militia force of Canada.

It was with feelings of pain that each member of the corps read of your dismissal—your dismissal for what? for an act of which each of us feels proud: of stating a truth and adhering to it, and for giving that truth publicity in the public press, when you and your company were misrepresented both in our own town and at Headquarters, you availed yourself of an advantage the right of all British subjects, of publishing in the local press a plain, unvarnished statement of facts which cannot be denied, neither contradicted. We have also understood that a Court of Enquiry was held at Stratford on the correspondence between you and Captain Seymour, the result of which has not been made known, although you have made frequent applications at the office of the Adjutant General for a copy of the papers. We also fear that misrepresentation, backed by undue influence, such as you would scorn to use, has been used. Nearly the whole of the members of this company are aware of the correspondence which passed between you and Captain Seymour, and also to the Government; and we heartily endorse every word of it. Your dismissal is therefore our dismissal, we have shared your honors which have not been a few—we now share your disgrace and feel proud in so doing; knowing that although your actions are not understood and appreciated at the office of the Adjutant General—they are understood and appreciated by almost the whole of the inhabitants of Goderich and the surrounding country.

Since you accepted the office of Captain of our company you have been zealous at all times for our improvement in military knowledge, you early made yourself master of Company and Battalion drill, and you were ever ready and anxious to impart it to us, and we feel that you were so far successful as to enable us to appear at inspections and reviews with credit, second to known in the field, and so expressed by the commanding officers. In dismissing you we feel that one of the best militia officers in Canada has been lost to the service.

You have been uniformly kind to every one of us, consequently you are endeared to each; we therefore feel a heartfelt sorrow in thus being compelled to part. But, Sir, you can leave the service knowing that you have acted uprightly and honestly in your character as an officer and defy the world to point their finger to a single act unbecoming the gentleman, (that is, if we take the ancient rule as our guide, but according to the new rule as laid down in Canada the truth must not be spoken, much less published). This must be your consolation—it is ours; and should the Government at any time retract their order and so satisfy your wounded honor or as to induce you to accept your commission, once more rest assured that each one of us to a man will rally round you again.—Therefore, once more assuring you of the sympathy of your company, we bid you Farewell.

Goderich, October 27th, 1865.

Signed by Sergeants R. Walker, Elijah Moore; Corporals Daniel Ferguson, Samuel Pentand, Thomas Dixon; Bugler James Thomson; Privates Wm. Gardiner, John Nairn, Walter Hick, John Emmerton, C. G. Benton, John White, John Walker, Alex. Nasmyth, John McPherson, R E. Miller, William Craig, John Pasmore, James Addison, Francis Smeith, Samuel Furse, Eric McKay, George Wiggington, Edwd Campaign, Edmund K. Land, John Reid, W. A. Harrison, F. Jordan, J. Brophey, David Wilson, Robert Booth, Stephen Andrews, Alexander Watson, Andrew McCloy.

MR. ROSS on rising to respond was greeted with enthusiastic cheers. He said, Mr. Chairman, officers, non-com-