Huron Signal.

GODERICH, SEPT. 14,

Editorial Correspondence.

On Monday, the 3rd inst. the editor of the *Signal* took "French leave" of his Huron friends for a week, in order to join the great Press Excursion to Brockville, Montreal, Ottawa, &c. The journey to Toronto is so common-place in its character that it is seldom worth specially about. Wherever the operations of the farmer could be witnessed from the car window, it was observable that the harvest was nearly all gathered in and much of it already threshed out. Preparations for fall wheat sowing were going on rapidly, and in some cases the seed, I notice, has been committed to the ground; but, judging from appearances, there will not be as great a breadth sown as last year. Dry as it is about Goderich, it appears to be even worse in the vicinity of Toronto. The woods are burning in many places and considerable damage seems to have been done to fences, &c. Toronto is very dull just now, and business men complain loudly, but it is hoped that the excellent crops gathered in the Northern and Western Counties will have the effect of creating a healthy trade during the Fall and Winter months. On Monday night I had the pleasure of being introduced by Councillor Burns into the splendid city hall, and had an opportunity of witnessing the manner in which metropolitans manage their civic affairs. The council chamber is fitted with a semi-circular table, around the outside of which the aldermen and members are seated to the number of 28. Within the open space in the centre is placed the clerk's desk, as also commodious accommodations for the city reporters, whose good opinion is not disregarded by the worshy members. The arrangement is very convenient, but some of the members are so far removed from each other that it is difficult to hear their remarks. His Worship, Mayor McIlcalfe, on entering the room, at half-past 7, takes his seat on a sort of elevated platform, and never removes his hat. It is considered parliamentary—this usage—and, therefore, is rigidly adhered to. There is a good deal of firing off by the members against each other, some few sallies of poor wit, in which His worship occasionally joins, and from a few of the gentlemen comes much of what amongst us simple-country folk would be termed *humbug*. There is a great agitation in the city just now about the dimissal of Capt. Prince, the Chief of Police. Opinion is divided as to the propriety of the act, and many urge that the captain should, at least, be retained in office until the return of Mr. Duggan, one of the three city commissioners, from Europe.

On Tuesday evening a large number of the editors of western papers, with their wives, met in Toronto and immediately started by the 5 o'clock train for Brockville, where it had been determined to hold the Annual meeting of the Press Association of Upper Canada on Wednesday. The trip down was a very tiresome one. The night was warm, the atmosphere smoky, and the twelve hours' ride with one's legs cramped up under the seat of a railway carriage in such a position that anything like sleep is impossible, is just about as wearisome a business as could be inflicted. When we did arrive at Brockville, about 4.50 a.m., we were driven in a body about forty strong to the Wilson House, which is considered the best in the place. To our intense chagrin and disappointment, the discovery was made that there was not a room to be had in the establishment. The ladies, tired and dusty as they were, threw themselves upon the sofas and couches, whilst a deputation of ten or twelve of the most indignant of the gentlemen went around to the other principal hotel to see what could be done. They were told very civilly that they could certainly have beds at 7 o'clock—that is, when more fortunate guests could be induced to leave them. This proposal was not fallen in with, and the deputation returned to report a failure. The landlord of the Wilson, Mr. R. G. Harvey, seemed good-natured in his efforts to do the best in his power under the circumstances, and hence the more lenient were inclined to blame him less severely than the majority. The people of the fine old town of Brockville were very considerably surprised at the invasion—no less than some 150 of the members of the Press of Upper Canada and their wives being present. On Wednesday forenoon a number of the ladies and others, through the kind attention of brother Wylie, of the Brockville Recorder, embarked on the nice little steamer Gazelle, and enjoyed the pleasure of a delightful sail amongst the far-famed Thousand Islands. On their return three cheers were given for the attentive Captain on the occasion. The Society held its annual meeting in the spacious Town Hall in the afternoon, about 80 members being present. Thos. White, Esq., of the Hamilton *Spectator*, President of the Association, delivered the following excellent address, which was deservedly applauded:—

GENTLEMEN.—Since the last meeting of the Press Association, events have transpired on this Continent which may well form the subject of congratulation. When we associated in Belleville a year ago, our neighbors of the United States were engaged in a bloody fratricidal struggle; the energies and resources of the people were being devoted, not to the development of the great wealth of the country, but to the work of destruction. Large armies were in the field eating out the very vitals of the republic, and the promise was for a long continued cruel war. To-day we assemble with peace once more restored; those large armies to a great extent disbanded and returning home to the duties of peaceful industry, and the anxiety which the presence of war in our immediate vicinity naturally created, happily removed. This is a subject, which as members of the great human family, may well form with us a subject for congratulation. As Canadians, whatever may have been our peculiar views of its events, we have watched with the greatest interest the struggle that has been going on. It has been the misfortune of the country to be deeply afflicted by it, confidence in its stability and safety was much shaken; and while no parties to the quarrel, we have felt, only in a little less degree than the people actually engaged in it, its withering influence upon our prosperity, so that the restoration of peace we have justly as cause for congratulation and rejoicing than the Americans themselves.—Already are there signs of returning confidence to the country, Canadian credit is advancing, as shown by the rise in the price of Canadian securities; and the failure of the predictions, that the close of the war would witness hordes of armed men invading our frontier, have tended to remove doubt and to promote confidence in our stability. We have been blessed during the past year in a country unequalled, with an abundant harvest. In spite of the failure of the wheat crop in large districts the labor of the farmers have been, on the whole, under the blessing of a kind providence, crowned with a plentiful result. The years of comparative scarcity through which we have passed, have taught the Canadian people severe lessons of economy and thrift; and the return of prosperity which we are promised, finds us, let us hope, all the better fitted for its enjoyment, by the temporary trials and reverses of the last few years. (Hear, hear.) And this general promise of a returning prosperity to the Province, may well form a subject for congratulation to the members of a craft which depends for its success to a very large extent, upon the prosperity of the country. It is for this reason that I have ventured to address you on this occasion, and to the extent, I may almost say, of such a prospect to that which I referred at the last two or three meetings of the Association. It is not enough, however, that we content ourselves with these mere formal congratulations; the crisis through which the country has passed, and the new crisis upon which it requires no Seer's vision to prove us that it is entering, call for increased vigilance and earnestness on the part of a profession to which has in itself the power, to a very large extent, of controlling the public opinion of the people. This power, a fearful one for any man either rightly to assume, or carelessly and negligently to exercise, is of the utmost importance to the character of the Press, that its members should fully realize and duly appreciate it. We are too apt, in the very familiarity with which a constant exercise of it begets, to underrate its importance and the responsibility which it imposes upon him who controls it. I would not be understood as pandering in the hackneyed declamation about the power of the Press, which as too often are directed to indicate, simply object, it can succeed in making myself fully understood, is to impress you, my brother journalists, with a sight of the strong character of this power, and above all, with the great responsibility which it carries with it. In many parts of this country, the people depend almost solely for their information of the outside world, of men and things, upon the information afforded to them from the weekly newspaper. With them it is, except, being always their Bible, the only literature they possess, they watch for its coming, as for the coming of an old friend, and they gather around the family table, and listen with earnest and confiding interest to the opinions and the statements which it brings to them. If character in man is simply the outward exhibition of the opinions and the convictions which he has formed, then are their very characters being moulded, and their future destinies, as dependent upon that character, peopled by those weekly messengers of good or evil. I say of good or evil, because they vary to the one or the other, just in proportion as the responsibility which the power of the Press imposes upon him who controls it, is duly and fully understood and appreciated.

It needs no argument to show that the due exercise of this power, a proper sense of the responsibility which it carries with it, implies the obligation that members of the Press, shall not become the detractors of it. Here, I think, we may see one of the real advantages of the Association whose annual meeting we are now holding, and congratulate ourselves upon the results which it has already produced. No one at all familiar with the Press of Canada during the last ten years can fail to discover the steady improvement which has taken place in its character, not only in enterprise but fairness and gentlemanly forbearance during that period. But a few years ago, and the topic of discussion between newspapers almost invariably, after the third article, degenerated into a mere personal quarrel between the Editors, who were often dragged by name into the arena, to the intense amusement of the worst classes of the community, and to the fostering of a wretched and unhealthy tone of public sentiment. To day, let us be thankful for it, such discussions are becoming like Angel's visits, few and far between. And I think it is not too much to arrogate to the Press Association a large share of the merit of this improved tone. It should be our duty to cultivate it still more, to frown down whenever it appears an attempt at the violation of what we now recognise as the decencies, to say nothing of the amenities of journalism. If, with larger, what is due to the great public, and through it to our profession, which we could not in it should be treated as an outlaw with whom no communion of any kind should be held.

And here, if you will permit me, I will say a word on behalf of another class of persons, who necessarily form the subject of discussion in the Press of the country—I mean the public men of the Province. Keeping in view always the statement with which I started, that to the Press belongs the guidance of the public sentiment and the formation of the public character of the people, to more important topic—looking to the good government of the country—can possibly engage our attention. I am well aware that the subject is one of great difficulty and delicacy, especially on an occasion like the present, when politics are so properly excluded from our discussion. But perhaps the very fact that they are so excluded, that we are bound to the once to forget, or at least to ignore, the partisan point of opinions which would, in my reader the occasion all the more fitting for the consideration of the subject to which I desire to draw your attention. It is simply this, irrespective of politics altogether, the Press, if it would consult the public interests, should fairly and honorably recognize the claims which the public men of the country have upon its consideration and fair treatment. The imputation of motives which are not patent; the exciting of suspicions against public men, when no open and unquestioned ground of suspicion exists, is last demoralizing the public opinion of the people, and thus tend, by the very force of that demoralization, to render public men themselves indifferent to criticisms and censures of the Press or the public. I am aware that under our system of party Government, and a party Press, the temptation to attack political opponents and to attribute to them motives which are the more creature of suspicion, is a very great one. But the object to be gained by a different course of public discussion, is sufficiently important to induce us to resist this temptation. Rely upon it that no more valuable heirlooms can be transmitted to the future generation of this country, than the honor of its public men. Their political opinion, their public or official acts, their party alliances, are all fit subjects for discussion, but their honor, irrespective of all, these should be dear to every true hearted Canadian. Let public men be convinced that they are treated by the Press of the country in this spirit, and they will esteem the maintenance of an unsullied honor as above all things precious, and that very purity of public administration which we all so much desire, will be most certainly promoted. Nothing tends so much to beget an indifference to personal honor as the conviction that it will be attributed whether deserved or not, and therefore in the interest of the country itself, as well as on behalf of the public men of the country, I deem it right to urge this view upon you.

The contrary course has been too often indulged in by the press of all parties. It has arisen from what I cannot but feel is a misapprehension of the duties of a party press under a system of party Government, the position of mere personal service, which is popularly recognized under the idea of organship, is degrading both to the public men and to the press of any party. It is the parent of that system of personal politics to which the country was rapidly descending, it indeed it had not already descended. A party to be of any value in a country should be the representation of distinct principles, and the party press to occupy its true position should be the guardian and exponent of those principles.—It should stand between the people on the one side and the leaders on the other, demanding for the former a fair and generous consideration towards the latter, and from the latter an honest adherence to the party convictions of the former. It should cultivate a spirit of personal confidence between the people and the leaders of the people of whatever party, by teaching the former that a fair consideration due to the latter, and the latter that that consideration and confidence will be continued only so long as by an honest and honorable career it continues to be deserved.

I have dwelt upon this subject at perhaps greater length and with more minuteness than might be considered necessary, or by some even proper, at a gathering like the present. Still I think the occasion is one when such views may be fairly urged upon the Association. As I have said the country has passed through a severe crisis, begotten by a continued failure of crops, and enhanced by the troubles in the neighboring Republic, and the want of confidence which these engendered; and it is entering upon another more hopeful in its promises and more cheering in the future would it unfold the conditions of our Canadian industry, the great political changes which are looming up before us, the relations which we sustain to the great people upon the from tier, and to our brother colonists to the east and west of us, our Imperial connection, and these and the hosts of other questions which naturally arise out of them afford subject enough for the best thoughts of our best men, and the most earnest discussion of our ablest writers. The occasion then seems to me a good one for taking stock of the past and opening up a new career of increased usefulness for the future. The Association has already done much good, it has made it a place liable act in any newspaper writer to drag from behind the incognito of the Press a brother journalist for the mere sake of satisfying a prurient taste for personal vituperation. It has an important work before it in the future, a work fraught with advantage to the country, and full of promise for the future well being and happiness of the people. May it rise to the dignity of a due appreciation of its great mission.

The following is a list of the officers elected for the current year:

M. Bowell, Intelligencer, Belleville, President; Thos. Sclar, Echo, Montreal, 1st Vice-President; James Campbell, Whitby Gazette, 2nd Vice-President; W. T. Cox, Signal, Goderich, Secretary-Treasurer; Wm. Buckingham, Beacon, Stratford, Honorary Secretary.

Executive Committee.—White, Wylie, Siddons, Somerville, Nicholson.

In the evening the members and a number of the prominent citizens sat down to a banquet in the large dining room of the Wilson House, and all enjoyed the festivities in the heartiest manner.

On Thursday morning the party, which seemed only to augment the longer it remained in Brockville, started by the Brockville and Ottawa Railway for the city of Ottawa.

Before leaving Brockville, the position of which is well known to most of our readers, it is only proper to state that it is a fine old town of about 6000 inhabitants, and possesses many fine private, public, and other buildings. The market, jail, Court House, School House and churches are models of solidity and adaptation. It is due to friend Wylie to state that he did all in his power to secure the comfort and pleasure of those whom, no doubt, he looked upon as in a certain measure his own guests, and if all was not accomplished that could have been desired in the way of accommodation, no blame could be attached to him.

(To be continued.)

The Impeachment of Judge Cooper.

ALTHOUGH we have hitherto refrained from saying anything about this very unpleasant matter, in the hope that in some way it might have been compromised, we feel that in duty to our readers and the public we can now remain no longer silent. There are, undoubtedly, offices of such dignity, and of such importance to the state, that public policy demands that their incumbents shall not be wantonly attacked. All high public functionaries have so vast an influence for good or evil in the community that the greatest caution should be exercised against carelessly accusing them either of incompetency or misbehaviour, otherwise, though innocent, their influence for good may be very much impaired, or perhaps wholly destroyed. Under the pressure of such accusations their administrative power becomes weakened; they are no longer capable of commanding for their executive acts that respect and esteem which should invariably accompany them, and they and their offices finally become objects of contempt and ridicule in the minds of the people. To be useful to the fullest extent of their occupation, it is necessary that they should accord with the popular will; the moment confidence is withdrawn from them, that moment their independence becomes shaken, and hence their capacity for usefulness is not only impaired, but it becomes positively dangerous to intrust them with power. As it is with a failing and weakened ministry, so is it with individuals. Boldness and vigor of action become alike impossible to either; their whole administrative acts are only framed to meet the bare necessities of their respective positions; and the larger and far more important interests of the community are, consequently, either almost wholly overlooked, or very inefficiently attended to.

With regard to the above learned Judge, it cannot be denied that dissatisfaction does exist. In the first place, it is evidenced by the fact that on the 22d of August last, a large and influential meeting of the legal profession from all parts of the Counties took place in Goderich, at which, after being resolved that great dissatisfaction did then exist, arising from the manner in which justice had been administered by him in these Counties, it was moved and seconded, and *unanimously* carried, that he be at once requested to place his resignation in the hands of the Government. This meeting was composed of *twenty* of the leading and most respectable professional gentlemen in the Counties. With two or three exceptions those of the profession who did not attend at the meeting are composed of very young men lately come among us, and who cannot yet be said to know anything about the capabilities or conduct of Mr. Cooper. This is very strong evidence. This dissatisfaction is proven again by the fact that for nearly two years past a large majority of the Counties' Council have only been prevented from passing resolutions condemnatory of him by the earnest solicitations of a few gentlemen living in town, who, though fully aware of Mr. Cooper's many deficiencies, were yet anxious to give him every opportunity of amendment. It is proven again by the fact that many of our most respectable magistrates refused to sit with him while presiding as chairman at the Sessions; and it is proven by many other facts and circumstances which it would not be proper for us now to mention, as no doubt they will be made the subject of specific charges against him, and will stand or fall according to the evidence adduced to support them.

We mention these things as bare facts existing beyond dispute, and which as public journalists we have the right, nay, in duty are bound to take up and discuss. At present we do not pretend to pronounce an opinion whether or not these facts are justified by the existence of a sufficient cause, but that they are facts is as plain and palpable as can possibly be. The charges preferred against Mr. Cooper are, speaking generally, inability and misbehaviour in office. By the former it may be meant, that either through mental imbecility or ignorance of the law, he is incapacitated properly to discharge the duties of his office; or it may mean both these combined; and the latter all such indiscreet and improper conduct as would tend to disgrace or scandalize the office he holds. The charges, we understand, are framed with a view to these two great cardinal points of attack, and embrace under each head as many specific instances as possible. Under the latter head, we understand, he is accused chiefly of the wretched and miserable crime of intemperance, and which, if proven, should be sufficient to disqualify any man from holding an office of such great importance. We understand that there are about forty specific charges of drunkenness against him while in the discharge of his judicial duties, with times and places named, and at which it is averred he was utterly incapable of properly transacting business. Numerous cases are also put, in which he is alleged to have given decisions contrary to law, to the great injury and delay of suitors in his courts. These are grave charges, and if proven to be true, the course the Government should, and, no doubt, would pursue, is clear and manifest.

We understand that Mr. Cooper has in circulation many petitions over the Counties, and from the best information we can gather, chiefly in the hands of tavern keepers and his own bailiff, expressing confidence in him, and accusing the legal profession of being actuated in their present prosecution against him from selfish and improper motives; chiefly because of the successful efforts he has hitherto made in lessening their fees, and protecting the public from their extortion. We do not wish to become Mr. Cooper's adviser concerning his defence, but we must say that this does seem a most remarkable way of meeting the charges preferred against him. If Jones accuses Smith of burning Tomkin's house, it is no answer to that charge for Smith to retort that Jones has robbed his neighbor's hen-roost. The simple issue to us seems to be, are the charges true or are they not; and neither one position nor the other is proven by making counter accusations. Mr. Cooper does not in our opinion adopt that course which honesty, nay, even policy should suggest. His accusers make certain definite and specific charges against him, and they submit those charges to the only proper tribunal for trial, believing in their truth and justice and willing to abide the issue. Mr. Cooper, on the contrary, circulates petitions among his friends, where only one side of the question is heard, and where everything is liable to be distorted and misrepresented; trusting, we presume, by this course to prevent investigation; for it cannot by any same person be for one moment supposed that it can be intended for any other object. We can assure Mr. Cooper that the public will not be satisfied with this manner of dealing with the question. Certain charges of the gravest possible character are brought against him by men whose honesty and respectability cannot be impeached, and who, above all others, should know whether they be true or false. There can be evidently but one way of meeting them: and that is, by an honest, open, and straight-forward denial, and on that denial to stand the investigation for which his accusers ask. If Mr. Cooper is innocent he owes it to his own self-respect and to the dignity of the office he holds to compel them to prove the truth of their assertions, or take the consequences of their falsehood. On the contrary it would seem he is making the most strenuous efforts to prevent inquiry into his conduct, instead of courting it as he should do, thus almost tacitly confessing the truth of the accusations preferred against him. No burking of this question will be permitted or allowed by the public.

We understand the charges have been forwarded to the most eminent counsel for settlement and revision, and when completed will be at once transmitted to the Government. We shall have occasion, shortly, again to refer to this subject.

CHAMBERS' JOURNAL.—The current No. of this excellent monthly is to hand from Mr. Moorhouse. The contents embrace many articles of considerable literary merit, and there is not a paper in the book which may not be read with profit.

☞ Tennyson has made $55,000 by his Enoch Arden.

Latest from Quebec.

The *Globe's* special of Sept. 6 says:—A return has, at last, been made by the Grand Trunk, in pursuance of the order of 25th January last, but it is so incomplete that it is of no service in deducing any conclusion. This is in great contrast with the Northern and Great Western Railways, which last year speedily furnished the fullest information. The Buffalo and Lake Huron Railway has not yet responded. The course is open to call the railway officials to the bar of the House should that response not be made. No doubt a special committee will be struck, next session, to investigate railway matters. It is now too late this session.

We have had a repetition in the House of the arguments advanced in the Council in favor of free grants. On the motion of Mr. McConkey, the whole land policy has been pretty fully ventilated, and doubtless Government will be benefited by learning public sentiment. The bulk of the public lands in Upper Canada are now sold at twenty cents and seventy cents an acre, cash, which really does not cover cost of survey and management. The only price at which the United States public lands are sold is one dollar twenty-five cents an acre, cash. Their only free grant system is under the homestead law, which, like our free grants, demands five years continuous settlement. Maine and other States on our border have public lands which they are not very successful in colonizing. Under Confederation, Upper Canada will doubtless revise her whole land management. The debate was adjourned.

In the Railway Committee to-day, the subject of the Georgian Bay Canal was taken up. It was postponed until Friday next.

The Contingency Committee, report that the number of extra writers and messengers in the employment of the House this session is small.

The Removal to Ottawa.

The Quebec correspondent of the Toronto Leader says that employees of the Government, who wish to draw it, are now paid money to cover the expenses of their removal to Ottawa. They are each given two months salary, $40 for each adult in the family, and $20 for each child and servant under ten per cent reduction to be made in the whole amount. All over 12 are regarded as adults. The scale of payment is the same as that adopted when the Government removed from Toronto, except that when there was no dwelling, which is made in this case because of the difference in distance. A number of clerks have drawn this allowance, and the fact that the Government is paying it now is indication of an early removal.

The Amalgamation Bill.

The Quebec cor. of the *Globe* of Monday last, says:—

Strong petitions from Brantford against the Amalgamation Bill were received to-day. That bill will probably be reached on Monday next, but it is not expected to pass. It was so roughly handled when last before the House that it will be positively useless to bring it up again. The Grand Trunk is leaving no stone unturned to get support, but without avail. It is generally believed here that with increased demands on its rolling stock, that road will be no better prepared than it was last year to accommodate the trade of the country.

Speech of Hon. D. McDonald.

The following very pointed remarks were delivered in the Legislative Council on Thursday 31st August, by the Hon. Donald McDonald, on Mr. McPherson's motion in favor of throwing the Public Domain open for Free Homesteads to all actual settlers:—

Hon. Mr. McDonald—I consider the question involved in the resolution now before the House of great practical importance—I much greater importance, indeed, than the merely political matters which are often made the occasion of lengthened debate. In old and densely peopled countries, economists have found the population pressing a little at one to some satisfactory. The question as a moved by Matthew in England is, how to counteract the growth of population as it and not exceed the means of subsistence. In Canada our difficulty is of a very opposite character. We have people, but what we want is more people. Now, the people we have in this country from and we suffer much from the poverty of people.—(Hear, hear.) Our territory, our resources, our means of subsistence are in advance of our numbers. And though, perhaps, a little ingenuity may contrive so to present statistics as to show a percentage of increase equal to the percentage which has marked the growth of neighboring States, we cannot—and if we could we ought not to conceal from ourselves the fact that in comparison with the newer portions of American Union, we have not had anything like satisfactory rate of increase. (Hear.) Our progress has been slow, compared with the progress to be seen on the other side of the border, mainly because the stream emigration which has flowed and will continue to flow thither is vastly greater than that which has thus far enriched the end of Canada. Unexpected calculations are of no avail against the testimony of our own eyes at any period during the season of navigation. Of the emigrants who came by the St. Lawrence, or of those who enter the province at Suspension Bridge, only an infinitesimal proportion remains amongst us. An overwhelming majority pass through the province to the Western States, which are thus enriched not simply by the men brought by the emigrants, but by the constant addition to their industrial resources. Confessedly, every able bodied man added to the population of a state is an addition to its wealth. (Hear.) Commerce feels the benefit this increasing growth of customers, and the national revenue profits by ever widening demand for dutiable goods. Unfortunately for Canada, its loss is not limited to the proportion which we ought to keep of the immense volume of emigration. In many districts, our farmers and our farmers' sons leave for the west, tempted in part no doubt by the attractions—I think the delusive attractions—of prairie farming; but tempted also in no inconsiderable degree by the boon of free homesteads which congress has wisely offered to every man who declares his intention to make the great Republic his home. (Hear.) I think, honorable gentlemen, that we have too long been passive observers of this state of things. True, successive Governments have professed an anxiety to promote immigration, but practically the best of our Ministers have done little toward enriching and benefitting the Province in this respect. (Hear, hear.) Even now I am not sanguine that the plan indicated in the resolution under consideration will of itself suffice to stem or change the human current which runs westward from the old world. A primary condition of improvement, I believe, to be the removal of doubts as to the future of the province and the adoption of a policy suited to our position, our condition and our available means. (Hear.) The defence question, so called, must be laid aside. (Cries of no, no, and hear, hear.) We must give up the nonsensical talk about fortifications, shake off the folly of preparing for a war to which in almost any circumstance, we should be unequal, so regulate our affairs that emigrants may have no misgivings as to our future. (Hear.)—They must see that we are at peace, and that we are determined to remain at peace; avoiding all additions to the Provincial debt, save those equivocal for productive public improvements. These points attended to, I am satisfied that the next most advantageous measure will be that which is contemplated by the hon. gentleman from the Saugeen division. Let us discard the idea of selling our public lands. Let us decide that all the lands remaining at the disposal of the Government shall be made available for settlement without money and without price.—(Hear, hear.) Let us declare that homesteads shall be offered free of cost to all *bona fide* settlers, and in my judgment the result will be, as the preamble to the resolution says, "the more rapid occupation of our wild lands, the increase of our population, and the advancement of the general interests of the Province;" for the course proposed will have the effect as well of drawing emigrants hither, as of inducing thousands who would otherwise abandon the Province to remain. It may be said that the system of free grants has already been acted upon in some localities. So it has, but not in a manner to test its value. Hitherto, we have offered merely narrow strips of land on both sides of a certain roads; and as the location of the roads has in all cases been the first consideration, it has happened in many cases that the lands thrown open as free grants have been rocky and not unfrequently worthless. Such a plan as that cannot be compared with that which would be acted upon under the terms of this resolution. Instead of limiting free grants to the poor, stony lands adjacent to roads, and so scattering settlers over the greatest possible area, we should make the whole public domain available for free settlement. Settlers will be at liberty to choose locations for themselves, instead of being limited to lots chosen by others, without reference to their fitness for farming; and settlement will go forward compactly instead of on the straggling no-system which has until now prevailed. (Hear, hear.) Of course, the Province will lose the revenue accruing from the sale of wild lands, but I believe that it will gain much more in indirect additions to its customs revenue, and yet more directly in the increase of industrial wealth, and of the power consequent upon a growing population. On these grounds then, I cordially support the resolution in favor of free grants to all actual settlers; convinced that the plan proposed is dictated alike by justice and expediency, and is an essential feature of any policy that would aim at augmenting the progress and prosperity of the Province.

☞ Some burglars blew open the safe of Hon. G. J. Goodhue, London, on Saturday morning last, and abstracted $256.

THE LEADER is at its old work of traducing the Press Association. It is now about the only important journal in Upper Canada that holds aloof, and we think there is none that requires more especially to profit by an institution one of the objects of which is the discouragement of the gross personalities which have so long disgraced the Press of our country. The rapid diminution of this evil through the direct influence of the Association should be sufficient proof that the assertion of the *Leader* that the meetings seem to be convened principally for the purpose of returning thanks to hotel keepers and railway companies proceeds from a jaundiced imagination. The Association is doing good, notwithstanding the obstructiveness of the *Leader*.

Town & Counties

County Court and Quarter Sessions.

These Courts were opened before the Co. Judge today (Tuesday). The following gentlemen of the Grand Jury answered to their names:—

Wm Currie, J C Detlor, J C Eckford, Jno Henderson, Jas Henderson, Robert Mitchell, Alex McKenzie, D C McKay, Jno Ridout, Jno Thompson, Jno Walker, W G Smith, Jno Hamilton, Wm Jenkins, Wm Murray, Jno Ross, Mr W G Smith was named foreman.

His Honor in addressing the Grand Jury stated that there were several important cases on the docket, and proceeded to explain the law respecting them.

DRY WEATHER.—The weather continues unusually dry and hot. The Maitland river here is lower than we have seen it for years.

GRAPES.—We have received from our old friend D. Sheff, Esq., of Metcalfe, a box of fine Clinton grapes, so well ripened and perfectly ripe. Mr. Sheff has the reputation of being one of the most successful amateur horticulturists in Middlesex.

☞ A Scotsman cor. writes to say that the Post Office appointment there of "James Dickson the younger" has aroused much indignation. The caricature sent is very good indeed.

CLINTON.

A MAN KILLED BY A GUN.—A young man named George Bagley, left his home on Monday last, 4th inst., taking a gun with him, and not returning, his friends went in search of him, and last evening, 7th inst., discovered him lying dead, having been shot through the breast, his gun lying behind him. The body was very much decomposed, which led to the discovery. An inquest was held this morning, but no evidence to show whether death was accidental or not on the part of the deceased, who had been of unsound mind for some time past.

How to take care of a Prisoner.

A constable in a remote section of Bruce being ordered to convey a prisoner to Goderich last week, combined pleasure with business by getting aboard the Bruce at Kincardine on her way down to Bayfield with excursionists to witness the performance of Leslie. On board the boat, both prisoner and constable got a little jovial, and when they arrived at Goderich, the latter, learning that his charge had never seen rope-walking done, kindly consented to take him down to Bayfield. On the way, however, they fell out, and after a set to of a few minutes, the constable left the field with two black eyes, and other striking marks of esteem. At Bayfield the officer got gloriously tight, and the last we heard of him was that the prisoner searched for him high and low, but failed to discover his whereabouts in time to take passage in the boat on her return trip.

MORRIS.

On Wednesday, the 30th August last, an inquess was held at Armstrong's Hotel, Ainleyville, on the body of Mr. Thomas Lynam, of lot No. 22, Con. 5, Morris, who died the day previous from loss of blood. It appears that poor Lynam was repairing a cradle scythe at his own house for a man who works for him, and from the circumstance of having but one leg (the other having been amputated some little time ago) he fell awkwardly on the blade and cut a fearful gash on his right arm. Dr. McCool was immediately sent for, but being absent Dr. Burns, lately come to the village, was called on; he drove immediately to the scene of the accident and found that the wife of Lynam and some neighbors had properly bandaged the arm above the wound, so that the blood was partially stopped, he removed the bandages, put on a tournequet, and it appears from evidence at the inquest that either through ignorance or negligence he sewed up the wound without lifting or tying the bleeding artery, leaving the tournequet screwed tight on the arm, saying that the blood would dry up in twenty-four hours when it could be removed. In about six hours afterwards Dr. McCool is sent for and on his arrival found grangrene had alarmingly set in, pulse gone, and the arm cold; he at once cut the stitches of the wound, lifted and tied the artery and removed the tournequet, which immediately gave ease to the almost dying patient; some hopes were entertained, but the previous tortiure and loss of blood had done the work, and poor Lynam died the next evening. An inqu st was held next day by Dr. Coleman of Seaforth, and with a large and respectable jury investigated the whole matter thoroughly, and with the assistance of Dr. Fitzsimmons who made a *post mortem* examination, and of Dr. McCool, with the clear explanatians of the Coroner, the jury unanimously brought in a verdict (through the malpractice of Dr. Burns), that the said Dr. B. Burns was guilty of homicide. The Coroner immediately issued his warrant for the apprehension of Burns, but he wisely took the hint and left for parts unknown. This, however, does not restore the life of a respectable man, or bring bread to a large helpless family left orphans through the ignorant quakery of a pretended M. D.—Con.

ROPE WALKING IN BAYFIELD.

LESLIE A FAILURE!

Great Excitement!

(From our own Correspondent.)

I had often heard of Blondin, and I longed to see his American rival Leslie. Not that I am a believer in rope-walking—such exhibitions can do no possible good, they set a bad example to our youth, are detrimental to the best interests of society, tending as they do, in my opinion, to dissipation and immorality.

The best excuse I have ever heard for rope walking is, that it cultivates a cool nerve and develops a strong muscle—both of which can be done to far better purpose by handling the axe and handspike.—There are feelings in the human mind, however, that seem to find gratification in witnessing things out of the way, strange and terrible. The same feeling or propensity that urges thousands to go to see a man built of lifs by a rope, brings them to see him put his life in peril by walking on one; and a few, like your correspondent, go to see what manner of men these rope-walking gentlemen are.

I hesitated yesterday morning about starting to Bayfield—the day threatened to be wet and stormy; but the handbills stated there was to be no postponement on account of weather, and of course the stronger the wind, the greater the peril, so on I went.

The day was fine by one o'clock, and I found, on reaching Bayfield, a great turn-out of respectable-looking people. I suppose they never had such a turn-out in the quiet old rusty village before. What with flags flying, bands playing, and gaily dressed people, the scene on the bank of the river from where the rope was stretched was gay and animated; and two steamboats, a rare thing for Bayfield trying to discharge their living freight at the apology for a wharf—trembling worse in the attempt than did the "twa wheelbarrows at the auld bridge of Ayr," made up a picture the like of which Bayfield has never seen before; and, I hope, for such a purpose, will never see the like again. But my observations were cut short by an acquaintance introducing me to Mr. Leslie, and I stood face to face with the king of Niagara. I was disappointed; instead of the cool, robust, big-muscled, iron-nerved individual I expected, I found a small-sized man, looking nervous and excited, and quivering worse than did tailor who had been on a fuddle for a week. "I will bet my boots, said I to my acquaintance, that that man will not walk that rope this day. After eyeing the rope intently and giving some instructions, Leslie left for his hotel, and on came the rain. At about four o'clock he again made his appearance, this time at the end of the rope, polebrandished in tinsel raiment, and looking more like a weasel. Still I was sure of my boots—he did not appear to me to be the man that would disappoint the people. Accordingly 50 to 60 above the Bayfield river. He walked some 50 feet out on the rope, threw off his gilded hat and Bion jin belt, seized his pole, and stretched himself up like a man bound to win. At this moment I caught the eye of an ex-County official giving Leslie one of those peculiar, searching, electrical glances, which in days gone by has made many a poor girl shiver. "If you don't go it now, Leslie, thought I, you never will. He started—walked cautiously out some 50 feet—sat down—tied up his pole—turned a time or two, and came back on hands and feet—any number of boys on the ground could have done as much. So ended the great ascension. That it was a great 'sell,' was the general feeling, and it was so ridiculous that many laughed heartily. Some, however, in whose noddles the barm was beginning to work, gave vent to their disappointment by pommeling one another. As I left, some sturdy rowdies threw a poor wight high and clear over a wagon. There was a rush—many thinking, no doubt, that it was some new and daring attempt at man flying; he fell too quickly to be a success, greatly to the detriment of his frontispiece. Even that had its advantages,—it saved him from the disgrace of recognition. I hear this morning that as Leslie was leaving Bayfield last night, some half-drunk worthy, who had been a disappointed spectator, dunned him for his money back. Leslie knocked him down with a whipstalk, and left him bleeding like a sheep in the hands of a butcher. When he came to himself, the wounded man, in revenge, cut Leslie's rope—broke his balance pole all to flinders, and let the whole concern into the river. If such is the case, it was a fitting finale to such a day's proceedings; and I hope we have heard the last of Leslie and rope-walking.

September 9th, 1865.

☞ On the 7th inst., a passenger train for Philadelphia collided with a freight train going in an opposite direction on the Camden and Amboy Railroad, at Hightstown, N. J. The locomotives were demolished, several cars damaged, and eight or ten passengers injured, but not very seriously. Cause—carelessness on the part of the employees.

The Stratford Review.

A battalion Review was held in Stratford yesterday (Monday). There were seven companies on the ground, numbering about 250 men. The Goderich Artillery Co. turned out to a man. Major Barretto was in command and expressed himself well pleased with the display.—The Volunteers were entertained by their Stratford brethren in arms in the Town Hall. A large number of spectators witnessed the evolutions.

ANOTHER NORTH POLE EXPEDITION.—One Dr. Petermann, editor of the Gotha Geographical Monthly, met in consultation with certain German geographers at Frankfort, and proposed a method of reaching the North Pole by means of the warm stream on the coast of Europe. He believed the pole could be reached from the northern German coast in ten days, and at a cost of $100,000. Hamburg and Bremen are suggested as good starting points.

United States.

NEW YORK, Sept. 2—The steamer Costa Rica, from Aspinwall on the 31st, has arrived. She brings $993,000 in specie.

Much needless excitement has prevailed at Panama concerning revolutionary movements in the interior, which appear to result in nothing. The present Government party may be overthrown, but there is no danger of an outbreak in the city.

The contending parties have but about 300 men each, and both appear afraid to fight.

Some excitement has been caused by Government appropriation a couple of American vessels for transportation. The American consul had blundered into giving them papers to trade on the coast, when they had no right to such documents.

The steamer Oriel arrived with troops for San Francisco, on the 25th ult. The conduct of the troops on landing was disgraceful.

The R. R. Spaulding also arrived with troops on the 30th, from Central America.

The only important item is that Borrios, ex-president of Salvador, is on trial, with a likelihood of being convicted and shot in violation of the agreement to not take his life, given to Nicaragua when delivered up.

Business is dull in Chili. Exchange on London at Valparaiso, 145½ to 146.

The revolution in Peru is still progressing, and the rebel fleet had entered Callao, awaiting a reply from President Pezet to their ultimatum, before attacking the town; still it is not certain that the revolution will succeed.

NASHVILLE, Sep. 8.—The explosion yesterday on the North Western Railroad was a terrible affair. The train consisted of eight cars and passenger coaches, and there were nearly 200 persons on board. The two foremost cars contained powder, shot and shell, and it is supposed a sparks from the locomotive communicated with the powder through crack in the car, causing the explosion.—Seven persons were killed outright, and nearly all received more or less injuries. The fireman was killed. The engineer, badly injured, and the conductor, slightly. Among the slightly injured was Mr. Van Valkenburg, Assistant Superintendent of Telegraphs. All the cars were blown to pieces, except the two in the rear. The engine was totally wrecked. The concussion was terrific, and shook the buildings in town like an earthquake.

New York, Sept 9.—The Savannah papers of the 5th are received.

General Sherman has issued an order stating that he has been informed that firearms are distributed over the State in the hands of designing men, and directing that all such arms be turned over to the Provost Marshal within 10 days after that time. The Provost Marshal is to enforce this, and seize at the point of a bayonet any that may be found.

It appears from Steedman's information was of a most important character, shadowing forth another rebellion.

The stevedores and laborers of Savannah had struck for $2 per day, and a disturbance took place, but a few arrests promptly quelled it.

Augusta, Me., September 9.—The billiard tournament for the championship of this State, which has been in session during the past week, terminated