SERPENTS.

Although deprived of feet, fins, and obvious members for walking, the serpent glides on the earth, ascends trees, or even directs its course through the water with surprising agility and with graceful evolutions; yet the serpent was "cursed above every beast of the field," and man, as if remembering the curse, turns from the reptile with disgust and horror, or seeks to effect its instant destruction. Let us examine how all this is effected, and first to the spinal column. Th[illegible] numerous bones or vertebræ which form[illegible] chain, are united together by ball a[illegible] articulations, or, in other words [illegible] ed head of each is fitted i[illegible] cavity in its predecessor, [illegible] the round-column is a chain of th[illegible] to a cup-like the utmost mobili[illegible] so that the whole safety of the sp[illegible] ese joints, capable of The articulat[illegible] compatible with the side to sid[illegible] nal cord inclosed within. undulat[illegible] ions can only be moved from of [illegible], and their progress by vertical [illegible] ions, as is seen in many old prints [illegible] erpents, is anatomically impossible. So [illegible] so it is impossible for the snake to perform the feat which has been ascribed to him, when he wishes to go quickly down a hill; for, according to an absurd story, he is said to put his tail in his mouth, and roll himself down, being in the form of a hoop. It is just as well to recollect the fact, that a snake can not turn himself upward when held by the tail. He can wriggle famously from side to side, but certainly not upward. Hence it follows that the best way to handle a snake is to hold him out at arm's length; in this position he can do no harm. But how, it will be asked, does the snake contrive to get along the ground so fast, as he has no perceptible legs or arms to help him? This is managed as follows: To each vertebræ—and a large snake has many dozen vertebræ—is attached a pair of ribs; the small end of these ribs are not attached to a sternum, or breast bone, but to a single scutum or scale, on the abdomen, by means of a slender cartilage and a set of short muscles. It is on the points of these ribs, which may be compared to the legs of a milipede, that the snake rests, and they act in progressive order, just like the legs of that creature, each pair bringing forward the plate or scatum to which it is attached. This row of scata may thus be regarded as one long, ample foot.

Home, in his "Comparative Anatomy," gives an account of the muscles, which, arising from the ribs, give motion to the scata. He observes that the rib in the snake performs two functions; the upper half is concerned in respiration, the lower in locomotion. If a snake be allowed quietly to crawl over the hand, the progressive movement of the ribs may be easily distinguished; and also if it be watched while crawling over any raised edge (as the back of a book) requiring the firm application of two or three scata in succession as the body glides over it. If you put a snake on a bit of plate glass he can get no hold with the scata, which becomes powerless. Snakes are often in the habit of climbing trees, and we see them represented in engravings, particularly in old pictorial Bibles, where the serpent is seen tempting Adam and Eve, and in stuffed specimens in museums, as coiling their bodies round the branches, in corkscrew-like folds. Now the snake, (when alive) never does this: it simply glides up with the whole body extended in a straight line, clinging by means of the tips of the expanded ribs, with the scata attached, as has been above explained. Mr. Gosse tells us that the black snake in Jamaica will allow the greatest part of its body to hang down in the air, and thus remain still, while little more than the tail maintains its position by clinging (straight, not spirally, and not half round it, but longitudinally along it) to the upper surface of a branch; and it will often pass freely and gracefully from one branch to another at a considerable interval. The motions of a snake in a tree are beautifully easy and free, and convey the impression that the reptile feels quite at home among the branches.—*Curiosities of Natural History.*

FEARFUL OCCURRENCE AT HARPURHEY.—A most fearful occurrence happened in our quiet village on the evening of the 8th inst. Sad to relate, our esteemed friend, Wm. Small, committed the dreadful crime of self-murder. It is to be feared that it was committed in cold blood and with a cool determination. The day being Thanksgiving-Day, and all business in the village being suspended, as well as the family being off sleigh-driving, he must have considered it a quiet opportune period to extinguish the last flicker of an active mind. When the family returned at night, between eight and nine o'clock, they suspected nothing wrong until the girl found two letters on the table, one addressed to herself and containing her wages, the other addressed to his son, bidding him farewell, and intimating that it was his pecuniary difficulties that drove him to his end, advising him how to manage with his little son (two years old)—the letter also says that the child's mother's family has promised to take care of the now orphan. "Poor Charley," he says, "will not know his own father." He was found in the back store, his brains blown about the house, his head fearfully mangled—the bones broken into a thousand pieces—the scalp fallen in upon the few portions of the skull bones left, which were thrown back, the face being separated in every way from its attachments and rent in fifty different directions from the skull and fallen down on the breast, so that at first appearance there was but a brainless cavity and his few stray locks. In his right hand he held the gun, the barrel having fallen from his head against his breast; his left hand by which he held the destructive weapon against his forehead discoloured from the exploded powder. He took the precaution of taking off the guard from the gun, that his foot might not slip off the trigger. The contents of the gun entered his forehead between the eyes. The deceased was a clever man, of a retentive memory, always positive in his arguments, had travelled much and seen a great deal. He could speak some five different languages. By the villagers he was so much respected that he was recommended to the magistracy, which office he held at his decease. He was but 55 years of age.—*Communicated to the Huron Signal.*

When the Duke of Newcastle returns to Clumber, the *Derby Mercury* states that he will be installed as County Grand Master of the Freemasons in the place of the late Colonel Wildman. A grand masonic ball is to be given to his Grace at Nottingham. The following, amongst others, have responded to the invitation to become stewards:—The Right Hon. the Earl Howe, the Earl Lincoln, the Marquis of Hartington, Lord Belper, Mr. Paget, M. P. Sir Thomas Parkyns, Bart., Sir Edward Walker, Knt., C. J. Wright, and Mr. Patchett, late Mayor of Nottingham.

At latest dates the headquarters of the Allies were within eight miles of Pekin.—The Chinese had sent a flag of truce with propositions for a treaty. Lord Elgin demanded the release of the prisoners before negotiating. The Emperor's brother had been appointed Chief Commissioner to make a peace. The Allied troops were also treating for food, finding the country desolated; whilst their coolies or bearers had deserted. Consul Parkes, the correspondent of the *Times*, and others, had been treacherously captured and taken prisoners into Pekin.

THE EMPRESS OF THE FRENCH[illegible]

In reply to the Glasgow addres[illegible] was presented on Tuesday, He[illegible], which turned her grateful thanks [illegible] Majesty re-vest for the cordial se[illegible] the address, and [illegible] the Lord Pro-that the [illegible] timents embodied in subsisted b[illegible] expressed a sincere hope would [illegible] and kind feeling which now that [illegible] between Great Britain and France [illegible] ver continue. Her Majesty added [illegible] she only regretted that her stay amongst them should be so brief, but she trusted that on a future occasion she might have it in her power to visit her friend the Duke of Hamilton, when she hoped her stay would be of longer duration.

After Her Majesty had made her reply, which she did in English, and in a very distinct voice, the town-clerk retired a few paces, still holding the address in his hand. The Empress fearing apparently, that he was about to retain it, said, with a smile, "O, don't take away the address. Pray give it me. It belongs to me." The parchment, which Mr. Turner had unconsciously retained, was of course, immediately handed to Her Majesty.

Before Her Majesty appeared at the hotel door to start for Hamilton Place, a considerable crowd had assembled in the narrow space in front of the hotel, and it became necessary to clear the way to permit the Empress to have easy access to the carriage.—For this purpose the police had to use their batons, which they did rather in pushing back the crowd than in striking them. It so happened that the Duke of Atholl got mixed up in the mass, and he must have been considerably surprised when he got a "crack on the croon" from a Policeman's baton. His grace took the stroke in extremely good part, being well aware that it was unintentionally, and admitting that there was no other way of dealing with a crowd which was determined to get forward, when there were substantial reasons why it should be put backward.

At Hamilton Palace Her Majesty received an address from the Town Council of Hamilton.

Her Imperial Majesty arrived in Glasgow from Hamilton at a quarter past six o'clock p.m., on Tuesday, and at once drove to the Queen's Hotel, around which a large crowd had assembled in expectation of her return. Preparations were instantly made for her immediate departure. It was originally arranged that Her Majesty should go south that night; but on the suggestion of the Duke of Atholl, she resolved to enjoy a day among the charming scenery of the most beautiful of the Highland lochs. The Empress accordingly, accompanied by the Duke of Atholl and her suite, left the Dundas-st. station at seven o'clock p.m., for Balloch, en route for Loch Lomond and Loch Katrine. Apartments for the Imperial suite at Balloch were telegraphed for before starting, but, if it was necessary, that the hospitality of Tillechewan would not be wanting. The Empress would yesterday visit the romantic scenery of Loch Lomond and Loch Katrine, and it was probable that she might reach Stirling in time for the half past six o'clock p. m. train for the south.

A correspondent of the Glasgow *Herald* says—"Among the memorabilra of the Empress's visit to Glasgow, perhaps you may think worth mentioning a circumstance that occurred with myself, as the Empress was passing on to Castle street, when leaving the Cathedral. There was no crowd at the spot, and consequently I was enabled, with two ladies who were with me, to stand close by the carriage as it passed. Taking off my hat, I saluted her with the words 'Kirkpatrick for ever.' She at once caught the sound of her Scottish ancestral name, and I had the honor to receive three times a most gracious smile and bow in acknowledgement of my courtesy. That this is no affectation of *amour propre* on my part, let me mention that two gentlemen, strangers followed me—the speaker an Englishman—and one of them said 'you got three distinct bows from the Empress.' I stated to him as the reason that I had saluted her by her noble Scottish patronymic."

BOYS OUT AT NIGHTS.

The practice of allowing boys to spend their evenings on the streets is one of the most runious; dangerous and michievous thing possible. Nothing so speedily and surely makes their course downward, They acquire, under the cover of the night, an unhealthy state of the mind, vulger and profane language, obscene practice, criminal sentiments, and a lawless and riotous bearing. Indeed, it is in the streets after night fall, that the boys generally acquire the education of the bad and the capacity for becoming rowdy, dissolute, criminal men. Parents do you believe it? Will you keep your children at home at night; and see that their home is made pleasant and profitable?—*Genesee Republican.*

It is seldom that more truth is compressed into so small a space. The thousands of boys, belonging to worthy respectable families, who are permitted, night after night, to select their own company and places of resort, are on the certain road to ruin. Confinding parents, who believe their sons are safe—that they will not associate with the vicious—will one of these days have their hearts crushed, as thousands have before, by learning that their sons, whom they regarded as proof against any evil, have been, from very early years, on the road to ruin. Keep your boys home at nights unless you accompany them yourself. *Rochester Democrat.*

Professor Rogers, a British geologist, has been lecturing in Glasgow on "The Traces of Primeval Man." He adverted to the ancient flint hatchet-heads found recently near Amiens 25 feet below the surface, with the bones of extinct elephants, rhinoceroses, hippopotami, stags and horses. In the superficial bed of clay which forms the uppermost stratum of the district are found numerous Roman remains, at least 700 years old. The interesting question was, were these remains and the hatchet-head 20 feet beneath them coeval. The lecturer was not prepared to affirm that they were; nevertheless, he inclined to the opinion that earthquakes might have produced, in a week, changes in the crust of the earth near its surface, which Lyell and his followers say must have been the work of ages. Prof. Rogers inculcates patience and care before forming any conclusion on matters which seem to affect the Mosaic narrative of the creation.

The following paragraph appears in the London *Court Journal*:—

"We believe that since his return from Canada, the Duke of Newcastle has devoted considerable attention to a plan for consolidating all the North American Colonies into one confederation. This is a project which has been urged on the attention of the Colonial office more than once; and, perhaps, the personal knowledge the Duke has acquired during his recent visit across the Atlantic has made his Grace more earnest in this matter than would otherwise have been the case. The idea has been a favourite one with many whose social position and official experience entitle their opinions to every respect."

An Irishman, on being told by our friends at the foot of the stairs that a newly invented stove they had for sale would save just half his fuel, replied, 'Arrah, then I'll take two, and save it all, my jewels.'

When you despair of good, beware of evil.

INDIAN KILLED.

We learn that on Monday Dr Edmundson held an inquest on the Body of an Indian killed by a train of cars on the Grand Trunk Railroad, a short distence west of the town. It appears that a number of Indians, on their way from St. Regis to the Ottawa, for winter hunting, found thmselves short of the needful to carry them over the Ottawa and Brockville Railroad.—In order to make up their passage money, they encamped near the Lyn road, and commenced basket making, disposed of their manufacturies in town. Among Indians as well as among the pale faces there are those who get drunk, [more shame to the European who sells the liquor]. Two or three of the Indians came to town and got intoxicated. We believe the Coroner knows where the liquor was procured. Two of them took the railroad track on the way to their camp but being stupified with liquor, one of them lay down on the track and the other on the side of the track. While lying thus a train came along and killed the one lying on the track. The engineer was not in the slightest to blame; he did not discover the Indian till too late to stop the train. We hope this will be a warning to tavern keepers against selling Indians liquor.—*Recorder.*

MR. BROWN AND MR. MACDONALD.—Mr. Brown addressed a meeting of 1,500 persons according to the Ministerial press, at London, C. W., on Thursday last, and was enthusiastically cheered. He certainly gave Mr. Macdonald a Roland for his Oliver castigating the undignified course of the latter has taken in devoting three-fourths of those speeches, which his auditors naturally expected to be devoted to an exposition and defence of the Ministerial policy, to personal vilification of the leader of the Opposition. "John A.," as he delights to designate himself, getting thoroughly used up; and his friends may well say "save us from his speeches." Not a single statesman-like remark has he made use of during the whole dozen of orations that he has given utterance to; not a single position of the Opposition has he grappled with; the only principal that he has inculcated is preservation of the Union, which he and his colleagues have declared, in their correspondence with the imperial Government, to be so prolific as to be unworkable, and to require the aid of a Federal Union to solder it together. Of the relative importance of the meetings addressed by the two leaders it would an insult to our readers to make a formal comparison. On the one hand are arrayed the bone and sinue of Upper Canada—the mercantile, the agricultural, and the mechanical interests alike, of the citics, towns and country parishes, with the majority of the elected municipal authorities; on the other hand are got together a herd of office holders—with the still more numerous class of office seekers—the Ministerially appointed Justices of the Peace, and a sprinkling of the representatives of virtually defunct old Toryism, congregated in places weighed down with debts, and defaulters to the Municipal Loan Fund. A glance at the constituent parts of these meetings will suffice to convince any one of the overpowering strength of the Reform party in Upper Canada.—*Montreal Transcript.*

The Herald.

CARLETON PLACE,

Wednesday, December 26, 1860

A merry Christmas and a happy New Year to all our readers, and many joyful returns of this festive season.

The late European news is almost entirely devoid of interest. All eyes are yet turned towards Gaeta, where Francis II still, desperately, stands at bay; that place being still untaken, though several skirmishes are said to have taken place. The apparent passiveness of the besegers is attributed to the unwillingness on the part of Victor Emmanuel to shed Neapolitan blood, and for this reason retards this final effort in the hope that the besieged will lay down their arms. It is reported that the ex-King is dangerously ill, having broken a blood-vessel.

A letter from Turin states that great warlike preparations are going on in every part of the kingdom. One private manufactory at Brescia has contracted to deliver 50,000 bomb-shells before the 15th of December, that railways for strategic purposes, from Milan to Pavia, are being pushed forward with the greatest activity, while the fortifications at Pavia and Bologna are carried on with alacrity, and a dispatch from Capua, dated Nov. 16th, says: "Victor Emmanuel has countermanded the order for the disbandment of Garibaldi army; this small, but brave army, is to be kept as the nucleus of a corps, round whose standard will be drawn the volunteers who will be called to fight against the tyrany of Austria, and it is to be hoped that the gallant General who won the battle of the Voltuno, gave Sicily and the Neapolitan Kingdom to Victor Emmanuel, and freedom to so many thousands of his down-trodden countrymen, will emerge from his honorable retirement at Caprera, and once more take the lead of his brave companians in arms."

Advices from Austria state that serious outbreaks have occurred in Hungary, but the reports need confirmation. The Emperor of France seems determined to imitate the example of Henry VIII, of England, renounce his allegiance to the Pope, and declare himself the head of the Church in France. He has dealt a blow to the Bishops in his realm, in consequence of the letters and disloyal addresses which they are in the habit of circulating; he has ordained that all such addresses shall come under the stamp regulations. If fit for publication, they are to be stamped; if not, they shall be suppressed. Truly it seems, that the power of Rome, both temporal and spiritual, is rapidly on the decline.

On our own continent nothing of importance has transpired. The usual amount of blustering and excitement is kept up in the Southern States, but it is the opinion in well informed circles, that it will blow past without any secession. The quarrels and bickerings among the so-called Republics of Central America are still going on. Salvador, Costa Rica, and Nicaragua, are at odds and ends with each other on account of some real or imaginary petty difficulties, while the factions of poor Mexico are busily engaged in attempts to annihilate each other.

PARLIAMENTARY BUILDINGS.

Our readers will be pleased to hear that the public buildings at Ottawa are progressing satisfactorily. The "Union" says, "The whole foundations are well over ground, and in many parts the walls have been proceeded with to a considerable height. The front is considerably advanced, and the main entrance is so far proceeded with that its many beauties as a specimen of architecture are now fairly developed. One or two of the large front openings are complete, and a view of them will well repay a visit. The workmen engaged in the construction of the heating apparatus are busily at work in a covered shed in the centre of the building.—Large sheds tenanted by stonecutters and tradesmen of different kinds, are placed at different points, and on the whole the indications of preparation for next summer's operation are quite apparent. There is a large body of men engaged in the quarries. We think it must be acknowledged that Mr. McGreevy has shown ability and activity of a marked character in the progress of the work upon which he is engaged.

Messrs. Jones, Haycock & Co., have also driven their work with commendable energy. The Eastern wing of the Departmental Buildings is now far advanced, the first story over ground being near completion. The work on the Wellington Street front is admirably executed. The Western wing, though not so far advanced, is nevertheless in a fair state of progress. We have been favoured with the folllowing statement of the force engaged:

Returns of Force on Departmental Buildings for month of December, and number to be increased for winter staff—Jones, Haycock & Co., Contractors:

	Now Employed.	To be Employed.	Tot.
Laborers & Quarrymen	253	50	303
Hord & Soft-Stone Ct'rs	105	45	150
Carpenters and Joiners	6	15	20
Engineer	1	0	1
Blacksmith's Shops	12	8	20
Stone Carvers,	3	0	3
Total,	380	118	498
Teams draw'g Stone &c.,	26	25	51
Carts	7	3	10
Foremen	15	0	15

THE NEW ORANGE PARTY.

Some of the Ministerial papers are boasting that the present Ministry still retain the confidence of the Orange body of Canada West. The idea has probably originated in the fact that some few Lodges have met and passed resolutions in favor of the Ministry, and the parties who take this view of the matter seem to overlook everything that occurs on the other side of the question. They never found room in their columns for the resolutions passed at the meetings of the Grand Lodges in the Western part of the Province, in which the Government of the day was denounced in plain and unmistakeable terms. In connection with this subject, we notice that Mr. Boulton, of Barrie, Deputy Grand Master of the Western Division of Orangemen, has received a requisition, signed by 153 of his Orange brethron in the city of Kingston, requesting him to address them upon the present position of Orangemen in this Province, with respect to the Government. Engagements at a distance from home, says the Barrie *Spirit*, prevent Mr. Boulton replying immediately, but his Kingston friends may rely upon his selecting a day on which to meet them by Friday or Saturday. It is well known that Mr. Boulton is a decided opponent of the present Government, and we cannot help thinking that the invitation given to him by the Orangemen of Kingston is significant of the feeling which exists amongst a section of that party.

One thing is quite evident that this great politicial party is divided and that one section is working in diametrical opposition to the other. A new Orange paper has also been stated in Toronto as the organ of the new party. And, so far as we can see, the judgment pronounced upon recent events in Canada has been endorsed by a great majority of the brethren; and the movement is likely to be progressive, and to extend itself over the entire province. There may possibly be a few dissentients, here and there, for a time, but the new movement party will, sooner or later, prevail. All the enthusiasm; all the energy of action; all the moral power, will be on their side. It has a cause to defend which will commend itself to all honest, intelligent, enlightened, brethren; and it will have the sympathy of cotemporary movements, the impulses of the age, and the flow of the general current, to bear it on to victory.

MAN FROZEN TO DEATH.

On Friday, the 14th inst., an inquest was held by Dr. James P. Lynn, Coroner, on the body of an old man, named George Ludgate, (formerly of Huntley.) of the Township of Grattan, in the County of Renfrew. It appears that the deceased left home on the Monday morning previous, for the purpose of collecting moss to place between the logs of his stable. After wandering through the woods for some time, he at last crossed a Beaver Meadow, where his boots became filled with water. He was found on Thursday, the 13th inst., a short distance from this meadow—his boots filled with ice, and his clothes almost frozen to his body. The Jury returned their verdict in accordance with the above facts.

☞ The ladies of Smith's Falls, intend holding a Bazaar in that village, on Wednesday and Thursday next, to be open each day from ten o'clock in the forenoon. See Advertisement.

☞ We have gone to Press a little earlier than usual this week, so as to give our Printers an opportunity of enjoying a Christmas holiday.

Harter was hung in Brockville on Thursday last for the murder of Dockstater in June last.

At the Examination of the Grammar School in this place, held on Saturday the 22nd instant, the following prizes were awarded:—

ARITHMATIC.

1st Prize,.....David McPherson,
2nd " .....Robert Bell, Jr.,

SPELLING AND COMPOSITION.

1st Prize,.....William Peole,
2nd " .....William Willson.

GRAMMAR.

1st Prize,.....Donald McKinnen,
2nd " .....John Willson.

GEOGRAPHY.

First Class.

1st. Prize,.....Mary J. Halcroft,
2nd " .....William McArthur.

Second Class.

1st. Prize,.....John Summer,
2nd " .....John McDonald.

Third Class.

1st. Prize,.....Charles Morphy,
2nd " .....John McLeod.

Prize for general good conduct and punctual attendance, Adam Peden.

F. S. HEIGHT, M.A.

ON ENLARGING.

The able editor of 'Zion's Herald' thus speaks to his readers on the subject of enlarging the size of his paper:

"Now let us say a word about the Herald. It has been heretofore like a New England oak, of slow growth and exceedingly solid. A California letter writer tells us that the trees are enormous there in size, but there cannot be found a block of native wood in all California hard and stiff enough to make a decent axe-handle. It must be a good country for the Irish to use the shillalah in! New England is just the reverse. We have no natural products very large here but rocks and mountains and men. Some of the men are not large in size, make it up in energy and a good opinion of themselves. Our wood is hard. It takes a well-tempered saw, backed by a good motive power, to go through a Yankee knot. Our agricultural products may be small in quantity, but they turn out the prime article in the end, in the shape of muscles and nerves. Now we have thought that the Zion's Herald is something of that kind. We cannot swell much if we should try. All the blowing we can get up, even though we should have a north east storm the year round, cannot make the Merrimac or the Connecticut equal to the Mississippi. But then the waters of our little streams are clear as crystal, sparkling with electricity and life, and the valleys through which they flow are studded with the most beautiful villages and cities to be found on the round earth. We will endeavour to be satisfied within the limits which Providence assigns to us, so long as we are permitted to give to our territory the highest cultivation within our power.

MUNCIPAL ELECTIONS.

The cities, towns, and villages, of Canada will soon be choosing the Councillors who are to manage their affairs and to look after their social and moral interests for another year. Complaints have been universal for some years past, that the most of the Municipal Councils are composed of men who do not represent the feelings of the comunity; and who encourage instead of discouraging the vices and licentiousness which have been so very prevalent, and have produced such a fearful amount of crime. As these Municipal Elections have not—we mean ought not to have,—the least connection with political parties, we will take the liberty to say that the religious and moral part of the community have themselves to blame, and are themselves responsible fo the evils that have arisen. They have not exerted the influence they might in having good men chosen. Of course religious people ought not to engage in excited and contentious electoneering; but it is the solemn duty of every lover of God and his country to give his vote, and next his influence, in a quite way, to secure the election of persons who, if not religious, should at least be moral and intelligent.—*Guardian.*

BURNING OF THE KENTUCKY INSANE ASYLUM.—The Louisville *Courier* of the 5th gives the particulars of the destruction of the Kentucky Asylum for the Insane, at Hopkinsville, Ky. The building cost $200,000, and is totally destroyed. The fire was caused by a defect in the chimneys. The *Courier* says:—"Dr. Montgomery, the Superintendent, lost everything in his efforts to save his patients. The assistants suffered in like manner. On reaching the yard, some fifty of the patients fled, panic-stricken, to the woods. Parties are in the woods searching for them, and are fast bringing them in. The attendants succeeded in saving the patients, some two hundred and fifty, without injury, except one who was fastened in his cell, near where the fire originated. The attendant, after endangering his own life, had to leave him. The procession of lunatics marching into town pretented a spectacle of melancholy grotesqueness, as the poor creatures passed on, the men on foot and the females in waggons and hacks, wrapped up in quilts, comforts and blankets of every hue. Some of them seemed passive and indifferent; some seemed unusually elated, while others wore on their faces a vague impression that some heavy misfrtune had befallen them.—The country and town authorities have made temporary quarters for them at the Court House and other buildings, which will be made as comfortable as possible. We learn that the patient burned up was Stewart, a carpenter. Most of the walls are without a fissure, and seem as good as ever, but the mistaken economy of the State, in not providing a metal roof has cost her many thousands of dollars. Mr. Howes, whe was one of the patients, says that many of the lunatics are at the hotels, but the most intractable are quartered in the Court House, and others confined in private dwellings. He walked 84 miles returning to this city. The managers, in a communication to Governor Magoffin, state that Isaac Stewart, from Butler county, is the only patient believed to have perished in the ruins."

Mrs. Partington having heard her son say that there were a great many anecdotes in the new almanac, begged him to cut them all out, as she heard that when anybody was poisoned, nothing was necessary but to give him an anecdote and it would cure him.

James Hoovey lately stole from his employer, Mr. Thompson, of Whitby, about $100 worth of harness, and decamped to the States. He was arrested in Rochester on Saturday.

The St. Catherines *Journal* says that on Tuesday, a quarrel occurred at Port Dalhousie, between two men named Possum and Casey. It appears that Possum went to the house of Casey, and for some cause not explained, the two got into a quarrel, when Casey seized a spider then on the stove, and struck Possum a blow with it on the head, fracturing the skull, and causing the brain to protude. He has since lain in an insensible state, and his recovery is considered very doubtful; but strange to say Casey is still at large, no person having made any complaint against him, and the officers entertaining doubts as to the course to pursue in the absence of such complaint.

CONFLICT OF AUTHORITIES.

It is a valuable provision of our judicial system that a litigant, or person convicted of crime, may *appeal* from the judgement of the court which has condemned him to a higher and more solemn tribunal, and in certain cases may even invoke the opinion of "the judicial committee of the Privy Council" in England. Though a Court of Error and Appeal may seldom be called upon to act, or when called upon may seldom be obliged to overrule the courts below, the *fact* that such a revising power exists and may be invoked, is of itself a great protection to the subject, for its tendency is to make judges deliberate with care and decide with circumspection. We cannot say, however, that the judgments of Chief Justice Robinson and Mr Justice Burns in the extradition case, although sufficiently voluminious—especially the former—convey the idea of great research, of close reasoning, of eminent learning, or even of tolerable fair *nisi prius* law. Certainly, there is a lamentable deficiency of authorities in both these judgments. In so important a case—one which is now engaging the anxious thought and the warm sympathy of millions of people in the new world. and probably by this time, in the old world also—their lordships might, we think, have condescended to give us some authority beside their own individual opinion to sustain the extraordinary conclusions at which they have arrived Mr Justice Burns talks about "reason and common sense" in a very familiar way, and assumes that he has correctly ascertained the intention of the framers of the treaty, but he cites nothing, argues nothing, proves nothing to support his *dicta* on the one point or the other. The Chief Justice adopts very much the same course.—We have a multitudinous outpouring of words; the *evidence*—as by a pleasant figure of speech the informal and irregular depositions taken by Mr. Mathews, are called—as twice started: first by way of digest then *in hæc verba*. The right of the Court to entertain the case at all is at first doubted, then doubtingly admitted; the meaning of the treaty and the Act of Parliament is shown to be open to two different constructions, one of which would make for the prisoner and the other against him—the former consistent with the words the latter contrary to the words—yet this letter construction, with its "painful consequences," is adopted, because his Lordship "thinks" it was the "intention" of the treaty. But no decided case either in the American courts or our own—no line or paragraph from the correspondence of the contracting parties or from the debates of Parliament or of Congress when the contract was ratified, is cited to show that the "intention" was what they have held it to be—We have only their own unsupported opinion in favour of an interpretation which shocks both the common and the moral sense of the whole community!

The opinions of the Judge, deliberately given upon a question of law, especially if he be a lawyer of experience and reputation, are entitled to respect from the general public, as well as from the legal profession. But in a case which is in some respects new; a case which involves the life of one man certainly, and the liberty, if not the lives, of many in all probability; a case which is broad, and deep, and farther reaching in all its bearings and consequences—which is of local, Imperial, and international interest—we did expect something more than the "I think" of the Chief Justice, or the 'this is a fallacy,' and the "this is common sense" of Mr Justice Burns! We observe, in reading the judgments in analogous cases, of such English Judges as Lord Mansfield, Mr Justice Best, Lords Loughborough, Brougham, Denman, &c., and such American Judges as Chief Justice Taney, Mr. Justice Storey, Judge Nelson, and others of similar standing, that they take great pains to fortify every position by the citation of authority. A long course of judicial decision on any point seems to be regarded with great reverence by the Judges we have named; even the opinions of learned jurists that have been received and acted upon by different nations in their dealings with each other, are quoted with respect and not lightly contravened. But in Canada, the great luminaries of the law of other countries, the maxims of international jurisprudence, the *comatas inter communitates*, are made to succumb to a "common sense" which is so very uncommon that we venture to say ninety-nine out of every hundred men, outside of Osgoode Hall, will declare that they do not comprehend it! Let us be thankful, then, that we have a Court of Appeal, and that over and above that, we have the high Court of Public Opinion, which in all questions of national right and justice, and humanity, and "common sense" may be relied upon to render a truer verdict than any mere Court of Law. The Legislature will be appealed to, also, and bad as it is in many respects, it may be found the best interpreter of its own Acts as well as of the Ashburton Treaty, so far as the people of this country are affected by it, and we trust it will have the opportunity to express *its* opinion before this extradition case is finally determined.

In the meantime we have to deal with the judgment of the Court of Queen's Bench.—With the views of Mr. Justice McLean we fully and cordially agree. He holds that Anderson should be discharged from custody because there is no *legal* evidence to sustain the charge against him. There is no *proof* that he is the man who committed the offence of which the witnesses speak. To return a fugitive slave to bondage upon a mere *suspicion* that he was guilty of a crime in Missouri seven or eight years ago, would be a disgrace to our humanity as well as our jurisprudence. And can any one say after reading the so-called evidence taken by Mr. Mathews, that there is anything more than a suspicion against Anderson? Certainly there is no "proof" upon which any man of "common sense" would feel justified in hanging a valuable dog if accused of sheep-killing. There is absolutely no proof whatever to identify Anderson with the man who killed Digges. It is said he has admitted, or his counsel had admitted, the identity.—He admitted that in escaping from slavery he "cut a man," but we have seen no admission that Digges was that man. But neither the treaty nor the act requires the surrender of fugitives upon their own admission. Evidence on oath is required "sufficient to sustain the charge," and that evidence has not yet been adduced against Anderson. On this point it seems to us that Mr. Justice McLean is clearly right. It would be manifestly dangerous to the liberty of the subject—and all fugitives taking up their residence among us and claiming our protection are subjects—to order their extradition upon such hearsay evidence, and such guessing at identity as we have had in this case. Those who contend for strict law, who ridicule the idea of sympathies for the slave, who repudiate all considerations of justice, of policy, of humanity, unless we find them expressly recognized in the treaty, should be consistent and apply their strict law to the warrant and the evidence on which it professes to be based. If they do, they must admit—as judge McLean has ably shown—that the case is at an end—the man is not *legally* held in custody.

But assuming, as Chief Justice Robinson and Justice Burns do, that all these irregularities, informalities, and insufficiencies may be cured or overlooked in behalf of slavery, not in behalf of liberty, we come to the main points in the case. These are—

1. As to the crime. The two Judges hold that this must be determined not by the law of the States where the alleged crime was committed. The Chief hesitates, and qualifies, and seems to shrink from the consequences of a doctrine so monstrous, when applied to the laws of slave states; but he finally accepts it. Justice Burns gulps it at once without winking. He says:—"The law of the foreign country is plain enough with regard to a certain class of its inhabitants"—no one disputes that, Mr. Burns—"but because our laws are different with regard to the liberty of that class it cannot *in reason and common sense* be a sound proposition to advance that such difference in the law warrants us in ignoring altogether the law of the foreign country, and would justify us in saying that a slave cannot commit murder in attempting to escape."—*Globe.*

THE UNIVERSITY QUESTION.

CONVENTION OF THE WESLEYAN DISTRICTS OF BROCKVILLE AND PERTH.

The Convention of the Brockville and Perth Districts, for the purpose of considering the subject of the University System of Education in Canada, met pursuant to notice, in the Wesleyan Church, Smith's Falls, at ten o'clock of the forenoon, on the 12th day of December, A.D. 1860.

The meeting was opened by the Rev. G. BEYNON, Chairman of Perth District, by singing, reading the 19th Psalm, and prayer.

Robert Lowery, Esq., was elected Chairman of the Convention.

Mr. Hugh Rea was elected Secretary; Rev. G. McRitchie Assistant Secretary.

The following Resolutions were adopted:

Moved by John Kilborn, Esq., of Newboro, and seconded by Mr. William Hutton, of Wolford,

That this Convention, chosen to represent the Members of the Wesleyan Methodist Church in the Counties of North and South Leeds, North and South Grenville, Lanark, Dundas, and part of Carleton, most heartily approves of the resolutions of the Kingston Conference, which avow a determination to continue the discussion of the question, involved in the University System of Canada, and especially in regard to the future equitable distribution of the University Fund.—Carried.

Moved by H. Hutchins, Esq., of Kemptville, seconded by Mr. H. Conn, of Burritt's Rapids,

That the Convention expresses its satisfaction with the result of the Parliamentary enquiry of last year, in that the complainants had the opportunity of furnishing conclusive evidence of the truth of their allegations against the present University System; but at the same time expresses regret that so few copies of the Report of evidence given before the Parliamentary Committee were printed, in consequence of which, only very few of the people of Canada have had the means of knowing what facts were brought out, and in what manner the University Endowment had been expended.—Carried.

Moved by A. Stevenson, Esq., of Augusta, seconded by Mr. W. Botsford of Perth,

That this convention deems it a duty to make known to Parliament its views and prayer on this subject, and considers it imperative on all classes to co-operate for the purpose of preventing the total extinction of the University Endowment, and to secure its benefits for the whole community, on the principle of equal rights to all, according to their Educational work; and, therefore, that Toronto University College shall not have any advantages above any other of the Colleges of the country.

Moved by Robert Carse, Esq., of Fitzroy, seconded by Young Scott, Esq., of Pakenham,

That this Convention approves of the Petition on the University question now read, and authorises the Chairman and Secretary to sign the same on behalf of those whom this Convention represents.—Carried.

Moved by Jos. Edmonds, seconded by Mr H. Arnold,

That the proceedings of this Convention be forwarded to the Editors of the following papers, viz:—the *Christian Guardian*, *British Standard*, *Prescott Telegraph*, *Carleton Place Herald*, *Brockville Recorder*, *Cornwall Economist*, *Mirickville Chronicle*, *Central Canadian* and *Montreal Witness*, with the request that they may be published for the information of the people.—Carried.

The thanks of the meeting were then tendered to the Chairman, Secretary and Assistant Secretary.

The Meeting was then brought to a close.

ROBERT LOWERY, *Chairman.*
HUGH W. REA, *Secretary.*

The following is the petition adopted by the Convention:

TO THE HONORABLE THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF CANADA.

May it please your Honorable House:

The Petition of the Convention of Members of the Wesleyan Methodist Church, chosen to represent the Circuits, or pastoral charges, which embrace the following Counties, viz:—North and South Leeds, North and South Grenville, North and South Lanark, Dundas, and part of Carleton.

HUMBLY SHEWETH:

That your Petitioners, with may of their fellow-subjects, complained last year to the Legislature, against the manner in which the University Act of Upper Canada has been administered, and the partial and improvident reduction and expenditure of the University Endowment, and prayed that inquiry might be instituted into the subject.

That the inquiry granted in answer to the prayer of your Petitioners has clearly shown, among other things, how widely the objects of the Upper Canada University Act of 1853 have been departed from; to how little practical purpose a large portion of the University Endowment has been expended; how illiberal, unjust, and unpatriotic is the present University system, and how small an extent it accomplishes, or even recognizes, the broad and general interests of a truly liberal and national system of Collegiate Education.

That, in the opinion of your Petitioners, there should be one non-denominational National University in Upper Canada, whose duty it should be to prescribe a proper course of liberal education, to examine candidates, and grant degrees and certificates of honor in Arts, Law and Medicine.

That such an University should be impartially constituted in respect to the various Colleges, and embrace upon equal terms and advantages, in regard to the University Endowment, all the Colleges in Upper Canada, whether denominational or non-denominational that teach the prescribed course of University education.

That an University thus constituted and including upon terms of equal rights and advantages all Colleges which are, or may be, established in Upper Canada, according to their works, will contribute most to promote the national objects of the University Endowment; will best secure a high and proper standard of University Education; will most fully develope and most largely combine the resources and voluntary exertions of the country in behalf of its highest educational interests; will most liberally consult the feelings and views of all classes of the people and confer upon the largest number of Canadian youth the priceless blessings of a sound liberal education.

Wherefore, your Petitioners pray your Honorable House to take the whole subject into your most serious consideration, and so to amend the Toronto University Act of 1853, as to correct the injustice and evils which have been complained of, and to secure to Upper Canada a truly national University embracing the several Colleges upon the terms of equal rights and of equal advantages from