"Faith. I should have starved, had not he chivalrous Oriancoff found me, fifteen years ago, and engaged me as *gentleman correspondent* to the czar. Ha! ha! Long live the czar!"

"He pays well, any way."

"Especially in war time."

An unmistakable noise suddenly was heard. Both started up.

"What was that?" cried Reginald, starting and terrified.

"By Jove, I don't know,"

They looked at one another, and then eagerly searched the room. They took lights, and going out, examined the other rooms. They looked out from the window, determined to be satisfied of the safety of their situation from all listeners.

"It must be the wind; no one is here," said Reginald.

They resumed their seats, and spoke not for some time. At last Reginald exclaimed:

"What of Irene?"

"Irene? Why, when Lionel is finished, she, of course, must rever to you in the natural order of things."

"Yes, she must. Of course she must. But just now she is pretty far from thinking of such a thing."

"Pooh! If she dislikes you now, she will soon get over that. Leave that to me. She must be yours. She is too precious a prize to lose!"

"How did you become her guardian? You never told me," said Reginald.

"Her father became obnoxious to the Greek government, under which he lived, you know, and came to live in England. I became acquainted with the wealthy Nikolai Arbanon in London. I could speak fluently modern Greek, and I was a dabster at ancient; so I got into the good graces of the old gentleman at once. He died and made me guardian of Irene and her property. She will be of age in two years, so that there is plenty of time for us to secure her in the holy bonds. Her property is vast. She has relatives in Odessa, and wants to go there but she shall not."

"Confound that dog, Lionel! He has secured her love, and there is little hope for me."

"Very little while he lives. He must be put out of the way. It is for your interest as well as for mine. As long as he lives she will love him madly. When he is out of the way, however, she will forget him—"

"Never!" suddenly cried a voice.

"Good God!" Up leaped the two from their seats, and with a kind of superstitious terror, glanced widely around.

"What infernal spying is going on here?" hoarsely whispered the father of Reginald, as he fiercely pulled open the door, and looked intently all around. They both renewed their search. Every corner, and closet, and cranny, was again found vacant, as they narrowly examined them. Nothing more was seen or heard beyond what they had seen and heard before.

"I do not understand it," said Reginald, huskily.

"I believe it was only some ordinary noise, which our excited fancies transformed into that word, for surely no living being is here. Do you believe in ghosts?"

"No," said Reginald, boldly.

"Then that sound was only imaginary."

"Be it so."

"Therefore I will calmly pursue my labors. I believe I must finish this letter to my very good friend and patron, the czar. He would like to know a little secret or two respecting the corruptibility of a few rampant British patriots. I go to the work. Can you read cypher writing like that?"

Reginald glanced in bewilderment at a page of closely-written cypher, which his father held out to his inspection. It seemed like the writing of our friends from the Celestial Empire being neither more nor less intelligible.

"Ha! ha! father. You are pretty safe in that."

"Yes, tolerably safe, I imagine. I don't see how this could be read without a key, even if it were intercepted. And here I have a note from Nesselrode."

"Well you are safe. I will go now, and leave you to your honourable employment. Good-night."

"Good-night, was the reply, and the two unnatural plotters seperated.

CHAPTER V.

THE MIDNIGHT SEARCH.

SCARCELY had the sound of Reginald's retreating footsteps died away, when two females, hurrying swiftly along the narrow passage-way, burst into an apartment at the other extremity of Beacon Hall, and sank wearily upon a couch. For a while nothing was heard but their panting, as they gasped for breath, and an occasional expression of horror which seemed to come simultaneously from both. As they reclined upon the couch, thus for a moment, they presented a strange yet beautiful group. One was advanced in years, and though the hair was white as silver, and her brow furrowed by age, yet in the noble contour of her face and features, and in the splendid eyes, where still glowed undimmed fires, might be seen the traces of uncommon beauty. The other was young, and seemed to be just ripening into womanhood. Her form was lithe and graceful; her hair, was long, dark and wavy, flowed in luxuriant tresses down from her head, and her face, with features of purest Grecian mould, enlivened by a proud and queenly expression, resembled the stately countenance which the Grecian sculptor would give to marble Diana. For a few moments not a word was spoken by either.

"Villian and wretch!" exclaimed the elder lady, suddenly, in the Greek language, clasping her hands together in horror. "O, my husband! how you were deceived when you took to your bosom this viper—this Henry D'Arcey. Great Heaven! can crimes so foul exist upon this earth, and exist unpunished? O, Irene, we must fly from this house of villany!"

"Mother—we must fly, and soon, too, if we would escape. But O, for Lionel! I tremble!"

"Yes, the atrocious scheme which we have heard unfolded is terrible, and may cause the ruin of your Lionel, Irene. It behts us now to consider our situation, and act as seems best for our safety."

"O, how fortunate that we were able to find that secret passage which led us to their chamber. We have overheard them. We know their plots, their crimes, their villany. He is poisoning Lionel's father. He would slay the son, and he would take me—me, for the wife of his own monstrous progeny. Great Heaven! can such things be?"

In uncontrollable excitement Irene rose up and paced the floor.

"Irene," said the mother, "do not give way to such feelings at this time. Our position is awful. Think of the hideous secrets which we have discovered."

"I do, I do; and I think, too, of our dreadful situation; foreigners alone in a foreign land—betrayed and in danger of ruin. We must fly, mother."

"Yes, and at once."

"But first we must let Lionel know of this, and put him on guard against his treacherous valet, who—O, heaven!—may before this, have wrought him ruin."

"Yes, but to-morrow will be time for that. Be it your duty to morrow to put Lionel on his guard, and acquaint him with all. But now, Irene, now we must consider how we are to act."

"Have we ready money?"

"Ready money? Yes, I have two hundred pounds in my purse, and my jewels are sufficiently valuable. As to property; most of what your father left lies in Odessa. A large amount is in England. But the villainous Henry D'Arcey, being guardian and executor, has possession of all our papers and documents."

"Alas, what are we to do? We cannot get possession of them. He will not yield them up."

"No, if he thought we were intending to leave, he would only hold on to those papers with more tenacity. He could manage to deprive us of all our property. Irene, we must fly—and we must fly secretly. To do otherwise would be to bring down his suspicion and wrath upon us, and thereby cause our ruin."

"But we cannot go without those papers."

"No, we cannot. We must have them."

"But how?"

There was a short but meaning silence It seemed as though a desperate thought had entered simultaneously the minds of both. A significant glance passed between them.

"Can it be done? said Irene, understanding her mother's thought, although no word had been uttered.

"It can—it must. We must summon to our aid, Irene, all the guile and subtility, which they say are the chief characteristics of the Greek character; we must summon all to our aid, we must get those papers. They are ours, we must take them from his desk—"

"Hush there may be listeners!"

"Listeners? Ha, ha—and who can under stand us here?"

"The scoundrel, Henry D'Arcey."

"Pooh! he is writing his Russian correspondence. We must get those papers. We must fly at once."

"And what can we do with our things here?"

"Things—are you mad? A few minutes will suffice for us to make all necessary preparations, and then off for Odessa."

"Richard is trusty, is he not?" asked Irene.

"He is. I will call him now. Wait.

She rose, and stealthily left the room. Irene sat upon the couch and waited in silence. At length she arose and went to a bureau; opening a drawer, she took out a small mahogany case, which she unlocked. A small dagger lay within. She put this in the folds of her dress.

"Who knows what may happen? Best to prepare," she muttered, as she walked back to the lounge.

Her mother re-entered in a short time, with the same noiseless as that had marked her departure. She held open the door for a moment, and a man entered. Then closing the door she locked it and resumed her seat.

The new comer was about fifty years of age, and in his sturdy form and broad face was an excellent type of an old household servant. Yet his face had a peculiar expression, or, rather want of expression, which would have baffled the most acute physiognomist. His eyes were frank and open, but the rest of his face was perfectly passive and inexpressive. He might be either an honest man or a rouge, for his face would disagree with neither character. As the ladies sat upon the sofa, the man stood in a respectful attitude, waiting to be addressed At length Madame Arbanon broke the silence.

"Richard, you have shown yourself our friend. Your warning about your master's dishonesty startled us. You took us to the corridor. We listened and were appalled. You were right in what you said to us. We intend to fly."

"Richard bowed his head, and spoke not a word.

"We want to escape quietly. Can you help us?"

"Yes'm," was the laconic reply.

"You know the house well?"

"Every nook and cranny, every winding passage and secret way (and they are not scarce in old Beacon Hall), every one of them I know. I'm and old servant, ma'am. I was born here."

"Since you have been true to us, I will tell you that we want to get into that chamber."

"Yes'm."

"Can you get us in?"

"Yes'm," said Richard unhesitatingly.

"When will your master leave?"

"At eleven."

"It is nearly that now."

"Then he will soon leave. He is punctual, and drops everything when his bed hour comes."

"And suppose, Richard," and Madame Arbanon spoke insinuatingly, "suppose you know that we wanted to get some papers of ours, that were in—"

"Hard to get," said Richard, dubiously shaking his head.

"But it must be done!"

"Then we can but try. There are some ways, but they are dangerous."

"How can we escape from the Hall in peace?"

"There is a railway station ten miles from here, Ma'am. It'll be a matter of an hour's drive there, and a train starts at four in the morning. You can be in London by noon to-morrow."

"Richard, you are indeed a friend."

"But you will save master Lionel?" Richard spoke tremulously, and turned away his head. The ladies were astonished at his emotion.

"Save him? He shall know all at once."

(To be continued.)

Huron Signal.

GODERICH, JUNE 20, 1867.

REFORM CONVENTION.

A Reform Convention is to be held in Toronto on the 27th inst. There will doubtless be a large turn out.

☞ We have to thank several friends for numerous additional names to be added to our subscription list. Gentlemen acting for us in this way will please send the name of no man who is not *sure pay*. The $1.50 in advance is the surest.

Singing Small.

The *Smut Machine* fell flat as a pancake last week. The poor fellow at the crank, unable to meet anything we have advanced charge us with personality and all that sort of thing. He knows very well that we endured his petty personal attacks for months without saying a word to him, and his present blubbering comes with a very poor grace. We have not been so very hard on him, that he need sit down and cry about it like a whipped child.

☞ The Starry man accuses us of trying to write him down, sneaking about talking against him, taking away every dollar of support we can, &c., assigning as a cause, the damage he has done our business. Now that is what we call, in plain English, a base falsehood. We challenge him to name one man with whom we have tried to injure him in a business way, or be stigmatized as a vile slanderer. He is the sneaking spy who watches Messrs. Gibbons and Gibson on Sunday, and perambulates the square to watch how long we burn the midnight oil. We should not be at all surprised if he were to dispatch a special reporter to our cook shed to tell the public what we had for dinner some day.

HOWICK.

After attending all the meetings in Howick, we think we are amply warranted in predicting majorities for Gibson and Holmes. The latter, however, will not have anything like the majority in his stronghold that he anticipated as the Dr. and Mr. Whitehead, are sure to break his strength very materially. We advise friend Holmes to stick close to Howick, for he will have a poor sight out of it.

☞ We are glad to learn that Mr. Robert Pinkerton, formerly of this town, is at present acting as a conductor on the Erie and Ontario Railway, and a general favorite with the *travelling* public.

Small Potatoes.

The conservative candidates for South Huron are doing a small business in holding quiet little meetings in the Southern Townships, to which they take care not to invite the reform candidates. They were invited to attend the meetings held by Messrs. Cameron and Gibbons, and it shows a poor spirit to refuse a like act of courtesy. It is a small potatoe business, and very few to the hill.

☞ The officers of the *Cherub*, which arrived here from Sarnia on Sunday last, informs us that Small Pox is decimating the Norwegian and other emigrants cooped up at Point Edwards. The poor creatures are said to be in a most wretched plight.

GENIUS IN THE BUSH.—We had the pleasure last week of inspecting a fine organ made entirely by Mr. Hughes, waggon maker, of the 2nd con., Howick. It is a fine instrument, valued at $400 and as an example of what can be done by a plain mechanic is a great curiosity.

THE CROPS.

Notwithstanding the lateness of the season, we were glad to observe on a recent trip through the townships of McKillop, Grey, Hullett and Howick, that the crops present a very cheering appearance. The spring wheat came up evenly, and the heat of the last week or two has forced it on so rapidly that it has nearly covered the ground, and wears a very healthy appearance. The fall wheat also has picked up wonderfully, and, we should judge, will if nothing untoward occurs, be a fair crop. The breadth of ground sown seems to be quite large and farmers generally are cheerful in view of their prospects.

HEAVY RAIN STORM.—On Friday the 7th inst., a rain storm, resembling a water-spout passed through McKillop and Grey, doing considerable damage. The deluge washed out crops, prostrated fences, in a wonderful manner, considering that it lasted only a few minutes. Had it not passed through a swampy tract, immense damage would have been done.

AINLEYVILLE.

TERRIBLE SUDDEN DEATH.

On Tuesday afternoon last a farmer named Robert Works, who lived in the township of Grey, within a mile and a half of this village, met with his death in a terribly sudden manner. He was working with his team near his own barn, when, something going wrong with the harness he stepped out on the tongue of the waggon, when the horses started off and he fell in front of the wheels, one of which passed over his neck killing him instantly. There was a talk of holding an inquest, but for what reason does not appear, as the circumstances of the case were quite plain. Deceased, who was highly respected by his neighbors, as an honest and upright man, leaves a wife and large family to mourn his sudden loss. Truly, "in the midst of life we are in death."

POLITICAL MEETINGS IN NORTH HURON.

HOWICK.

(Reported specially for the SIGNAL)

A public meeting called by Mr. Hays was held at Browning's School House in the N. E. corner of Howick, on Wednesday afternoon, the 12th inst. There was a pretty good turn out of electors present. Mr. J. Milligan being called to the chair, introduced

Mr. Hays, who opened his speech by speaking of the constitutional changes on which the country was now entering, and stating his objections to the present policy of Mr. Brown, who had gone entirely astray. Mr. Brown had left the ministry because he was, with many others, opposed to Galt's Washington mission, or because he was not sent himself. Mr. Brown was not the editor of the *Globe*—a man being hired for the purpose, and therefore that paper should not be believed in all things. He then pitched into Mr. Gibson's municipal conduct as regards the County Council. That body had taken the sum of $7138.20 for mileage in seven years, which was illegal, and for which no excuse could be made. The Treasurer got a salary of $1400 over and above certain perquisites, such as fees for certificates at 20cts each, (he had heard that parties were in some cases charged $1.00 for them) and the emoluments arising from the sale of lands for taxes, giving deeds for them at $1.00 each, amounting to $600 per year, beside running the bank at $800 per year. Considering that he had not more than half the work to do now, his salary was far too high. Then again the money paid the Audit Committee was illegally granted. Mr. Gibson had challenged him to show how that Committee cost more than $14.50 and some cents per quarter, and he was now prepared to prove that its average cost was over $100 per year. Mr. Hels had stated that all the Council knew about the mileage, but afterwards he (Hays) said there were some of course, who were ignorant of the matter. He had made a calculation of what Mr. Gibson had received of it, and he found that as he had come to Goderich twenty times, at $9 00 each trip, he was paid the sum of $280.00. He then stated his policy politically. He would support the Coalition ministry, advocate free grants of land, the opening of the North-West, &c., and if elected he would not be an obstructionist, such as Mr. Oliver, one of Mr. Gibson's advocates, had stated reformers to be in their desire to turn the present ministry out of office, and resumed his seat.

Mr. Gibson then rose, and said Mr. Hays had put his statements to suit himself. He would state with regard to the Treasurer, the salaries committee recommended that he have a fixed salary of $1200, which recommendation with a motion to reduce it to $1000 was referred back to the salaries committee, on account of the non-resident sales. He had in his possession a certificate from the Deputy Sheriff, showing that the amount of the per centage on sale of non resident lands last year was $183.00. The Treasurer only gets half of what the Sheriff receives. This year the deeds are to be still issued by the Sheriff. He had in his pocket the minutes of York and Peel, and he saw that the treasurer of those counties got more in 1864 than all our officers together. The present treasurer receives $1400, and handles about half the money Mr. Ross does. It was necessary to have a man of character and standing for such a responsible position. Mr. Holmes had voted that Mr. Brown, the treasurer in 1867, receive the same salary as our present treasurer. As to the grants for special services, they had ample precedent in the action of past Councils. Mr. Holmes, during his four years of office as Warden, received $655 00 for special services. In this respect he received far more than Gibbons, during his eight years' service. All Mr. Gibbons received for special services was $100, and it would have been decidedly unfair to demand the large amount of labor he had to perform without giving him some remuneration. With regard to the Audit Committee, the idea of which was suggested by the late Mr. Galt, Sec. 172 of the Municipal Act might reasonably be construed as meaning to place such business under the supervision of the County Council. The mileage was paid, of course—there was no denying that. The motion granting it was moved by Mr. Millar, of Kincardine, seconded by Mr. McLauchlin, of Howick, and he was two years in the Council before he knew of the matter; but he certainly made no money by the affair, and in the earlier days he could hardly have got to the Council without it. Chancellor Spragge had decided this spring that travelling expenses of the municipal councillors ought to be paid. He defied any man to travel 40 or 50 miles, receive $1.50 a-day, pay his way decently, and come back without being out of pocket. He moved in 1861, that the 4th session of the year be discontinued. If he was making money by getting the mileage, was he likely to go for doing away with one of the meetings of Council. Men of both shades of politics had received the mileage, and Dr. Woods a prominent councillor, said it was quite right to do so. As for supporting the Coalition Government, he believed that not a single member of the ministry would be in the Local Government. The no-party cry was got up to suit a purpose, which was, that by giving the reformers of Upper Canada two seats out of five, the tory party hoped still to rule the roost. (Hear, hear.) He thought that a man who came into the country and cleared a farm by his own right arm, deserved to have the deed of it as a free grant. But (and he was glad Mr. Hays had come to his way of thinking) we had very little good land left in Canada besides what was held by speculators, and it was to be hoped that ere long a road would be made to the fertile fields of the west, and the rich lands there opened to the population of Europe. Upon the Assessment Law, Education, &c., Mr. Hays and himself were as one. He thought some change should be made in regard to school superintendents, as it would obviously be better to place practical teachers in such situations. He thought members of parliament should receive pay only for the time they worked. Mr. Hays would insinuate that reformers were opposed to Confederation. He (Mr. G.) did not believe reformers were going to parliament to burke confederation, but would endeavor to carry it out in a fair spirit. Some hinted that reformers were annexationists, but he could say there was not a bit of annexation in his body. (Hear, hear.) The charge of annexation could be hurled at the heads of many prominent conservative leaders, but such things should be left aside now.

Mr Hays said Mr. Spragge's decision did not relate to council fees. Mr. McFarlane, Mr. H. Cameron, and other lawyers, had said that it was decidedly illegal to pay money in council fees.

Mr. Holmes said he came before them to enlist their sympathies. He had long been a public servant. He had done nothing wrong that could be proved against him. He spent a length of time in Buffalo about the gravel road debenture matter. The signing of those debentures would take a month, and he received nothing for it but what the Council gave him. When he lost his municipal election he thought it was a great loss to the Council. He had always been a liberal conservative, never voting for a bad measure come from where it might. He thought it very wrong to try to throw the present ministry out of office, as they alone were capable of carrying out Confederation. One cause of common sense he thought worth all the toryism and reform in the country. The only way to secure it would be to send men of ability to Ottawa. If the opposition of Upper Canada, aided by the Rouges of Lower Canada, turned out the Ministry, he did not know what would happen. He wished them to know that he was *not* a chip in porridge, and hoped they would elect him if they could not find a better.

Mr. Whitehead, after apologising for his inability to speak much on account of his recent illness, which still clung to him, said he appeared before them as the nominee of the Reform Convention, and would explain his views. The country was now about to enter on a new state of existence, and it was necessary that men of integrity and sound principle should be selected to initiate the new principle of government. He was strongly opposed to the speculators, who by holding large quantities of land retarded the progress of the country. The best way to treat them was to clap a good, heavy Provincial tax on their lands. (Hear, hear.) He thought the placing of the Bank of Issue under the control of any finance minister was very wrong. In his opinion it would be proper to secure, if possible, a fresh treaty of Reciprocity, as it would give the people two markets. The past was an extraordinary year, and should not be taken as a criterion. He would advocate, if elected, cheap postage, economical construction of the Intercolonial Railway, and retrenchment generally, and resumed his seat.

Mr. Holmes—Define your policy.

Mr. Whitehead.—My policy is True Reform, in principle and practice. I am not like you men who lend out your money at high rates of interest, but have always spent my money in advancing the interests of the country. I have about $100,000 worth of property in the riding, and if I can represent that well, I think I can represent the interests of the public just as well. (Hear, hear.)

The meeting then broke up. This section is good for a large majority for Whitehead and Gibson.

ORANGE HILL.

Wednesday evening, 12th.—Mr. James Wiggins chairman. The school house was crowded with electors. Mr. Hays opened the vale with the usual epitome of the political history of Canada up to the Union, the conflict of party under the Union, the formation of the coalition, and the retirement of Mr. Brown. Then came the everlasting mileage, audit Committee, and the atrocities of the County Council in General and Thomas Gibson in Particular. Mr. Mallough of Ashfield, he said, had declared that any man who had disclosed these enormities as he had done should be kicked out of the County. Mr. Mitchell, when Reeve of Grey, had refused $60 mileage for two sessions. Some of the Reeves took three times as much as they were entitled to. He (Hays) had figured it up with Mr. Morrow of Hullett, who declared he could not understand it. Some of Mr. Gibson's own supporters had said that he deserved the thanks of the Riding, whether he was elected or not. That was different from Mailough, who was no man at all. Mr. Gibson, at the last meeting had spoken of a certificate from the Deputy Sheriff. There was no such officer now as deputy Sheriff, and he hoped to be able to prove that the certificate was incorrect. At all events he would stick to it that the Treasurer would get 600 dollars as fees on non-resident taxes until he had proof to the contrary. He had been mistaken in saying that the inspector of weights and measures made $25 a day in fees. It was $31.00 in two days, the average being $4.00 per day. Mr. Mesar had said publicly that Saunders was dismissed for being drunk but had since denied it. Mesar said the office would have to be abolished.

Mr. Gibson met Mr. Hays on the mileage question by stating that the motion granting it was passed before he went into the Council, that it was customary in nearly every County Council of the County, and if not strictly law was certainly just, as it would be a great hardship for Reeves to travel great distances at their own expense. With reference to the Treasurer, he received less than the treasurers of many other municipalities, and he would read a certificate from Mr. Fraser, Deputy Sheriff, showing that the fees on the sale of non resident lands last year was just $183.63—if Hays searched the sheriff's books till doomsday, he would not find it more than that—and the County Treasurer would receive half as much in proportion. The audit committee which had cost only $343.60 in five years, had saved $2000 in the case of the Brant riots, and large sums in other matters. It had been suggested by the late John Galt, and warmly supported by D. H. Ritchie, one of the conservative candidates for South Huron. He thought the coalition had finished its work in the consummation of the Confederation scheme, and the next government should be a party one, the strongest party to take the reins of power, as a good healthy opposition was indispensable in any good government. He thought Mr. Hays would be in a tight place if it came up in the House to throw the indebtedness of defaulting municipalities on the country. Goderich being far behind in its payments to the Government, on the sum borrowed from the municipal loan fund.

Dr. Sloan said these squabbles about mileage would convince the public that his opponents were a bad lot. He would go in against jobbery and corruption, for the economical construction of the Intercolonial railway, renewal of reciprocity treaty, cheap postage, opening the North-west. He said Mr. Whitehead's sympathies were with the Grand Trunk, for which reason he should be rejected.

Mr. Holmes said he had always been a conservative of the pure quill. Charges had been brought against him that he had received large sums for extra services, &c., but he had not received any more than the Council thought was right. They were on a fishing tour, and if some one would waken Dr. Sloan he would tell about it. (The Dr. opened his eyes and yawned). The great difficulty was to know what bait to use. The Dr. in some cases used reform bait, at others a little conservative bait, frequently with a base hook, and in certain quarters with pure conservative bait. (Laughter.) He was everything by turns and nothing long.—(Great laughter.)

Mr. Whitehead, who was quite indisposed, was not able to say more than that he came as a reform candidate, and was just as independent of the Grand Trunk as any one in the room. His chief desire was by all means to develope theresources of our country.

There would, perhaps, be a majority for Hays and Holmes at this meeting, but the house was pretty well divided. The utmost attention was paid to the speakers and good order prevailed.

NEWBRIDGE.

THURSDAY AFTERNOON, 13th.—There was a fair turn out in a new frame building, W. G. Walker, Esq., chairman.

The speaking consisted of a re-hash of Mr. Hays' stock in trade, ably met by Mr. Gibson. Dr. Sloan saved the country from ruin, introduced a millennial state of prosperity, supported the coalition in power, took his seat at Ottawa in imagination, and sat down in reality. Mr. Holmes enlivened his usually dreary, humdrum oration with something original: He asserted that he had served the country in Parliament *more ably than either Dickson or Cayley.* If he had told the electors he dined on peppered whale or elephant steaks they could not have regarded him with more open-mouthed astonishment. Mr. Whitehead was unable to attend this meeting. Gibson will have a handsome majority in the neighborhood, and Whitehead will get a fair vote.

TOWN PLOT.

THURSDAY EVENING.—W. G. Walker, Esq., chairman. Mr. Hays fired away at the County Council affair, the only part of which that seemed to go down being the oysters. He read from a speech delivered by John A. at Toronto, in which it was asserted that every true patriot should support the coming coalition. While he was hacking away at Gibson, an old man in the crowd brought down the House by declaring that he could not blacken Mr. Gibson if he tried all night.

Mr. Gibson said the further the contest went the milder Mr. Hays seemed to get. He admitted that John A. McDonald was a clever man, but he contended that Mr. Brown was the only man out of the eleven who had taken the proper course with regard to the Reciprocity question. Mr. Galt, in going down on his knees to Congress, had humiliated himself and the country. He believed that whatever party might rule at Ottawa, the Reformers of Upper Canada would sway the House of Assembly at Toronto. (Reform cheers.) He met the varies charges in a manly frank spirit that seemed to carry conviction to many minds.

Dr. Sloan "went for" Mr. Whitehead at a great rate saying it had been asserted in Convention by Mr. Holmes of the *New Era* that all he wanted to go to Ottawa for was to sell flour, &c. The Dr. also "went" for Mr. Holmes showing that he had been at the helm when the County lost enormous sums—had voted against Confederation in House, &c.

Mr. Holmes said the reason why he voted against confederation was because it emanated from the Toronto Convention He thought that if they were in the old country it would be a long time before some of them would be thought of as members of parliament. (that's so.) He tried to explain how the £125,000 of railway money was lost, but had to admit that it was unaccountable. After apologizing for his frivolity, Mr. Holmes said he would not grieve much if he was not elected and took his seat.

Mr. Whitehead said he was the nominee of the Reform Convention and, if elected would support the principles of reform. He would not have come out if a good strong reformer could have been got in his place, but when he saw Dr. Sloan was going into the field, he considered that he (the Dr.) was a man too unreliable to represent the North Huron, and hence his appearance that night. In answer to a question from Dr. Sloan, Mr. Whitehead said he thought it was almost impossible for a man to pledge himself that he would oppose the new government until he saw and understood the circumstances of the case, but he wished to say that he was opposed to the principle of Coalition Governments.

Dr. Sloan tried to make it appear that Mr. Whitehead was unwilling to commit himself; but he admitted that he did not like to make very strong pledges himself.

The chairman summed up the proceedings by saying that they could not rely on Mr. Hays as a conservative. Gibson had honestly stated his principles as a reformer. If they called the Dr. an honest reformer they were greatly mistaken, Mr. Holmes was the worst conservative of the bunch, and Mr. Whitehead had no chance at all.

Mr. Hays said if party lines were struck he would vote with the conservatives. (Cheers.) This section is about equally divided between Gibson and Hays.

HUGHES' CORNERS.

FRIDAY AFTERNOON, 14th.—There was a pretty good turn out at the school house. It is useless for us to give a report of the proceedings in detail, as the arguments used were the same as at the other meetings, excepting that Mr. Holmes, after setting several asleep with his dismal explanations of matters charged against declared, with Mr. Hays, that any one who would dare to oppose him was a traitor to his country, Hon. J. A. McDonald being the authority.

Gibson will have a majority here and Whitehead will get a respectable vote.

LEECHVILLE.

FRIDAY EVENING.—James Perkins Esq., Deputy Reeve, in the chair. Mr. Hays restored order out of the chaos of past legislation, demolished the *Globe*, settled confederation, put the reins of government in the hands of a coalition headed by John A., kept it in power with his vote, ventilated the sins of the County Council, declared that he believed he was going in and resumed his seat.

Mr. Gibson made *the* speech of the week. He pointed out most logically that what the County Council did was fair and honorable, brought Mr. Hays to task on his change of politics and said that he (Hays) and other lawyers were in the town Council of Goderich *when it voted illegally a bonus of $500 to the Goderich Salt Well*, which was located in another municipality. (Sensation) That was a specimen of what a lawyer could do, who now brought charges against the County Council for election purposes. It had been said that those who intended to oppose the proposed Coalition Government were traitors to their country. He would hurl the foul insinuation back in the teeth of its utterers. Reformers had raised the country to its present position, and the country owed its leaders a debt of gratitude. He would venture to assert that the Reform party would rule the House of Assembly for Ontario in spite of them! (Cheers and Counter Cheers.) We regret exceedingly that we have not room for a full report of this speech. It proclaimed Thomas Gibson to be, when roused a really eloquent man, as every man in that crowded assembly would admit, as he listened to logically constructed and fiery sentences, which made the blood quicken and tingle through the listener's veins, and carried conviction to the mind. We mean nothing offensive, but we declare that before such an avalanche as that, Mr. Hays, who is clever enough in a way, sinks into complete nothingness.

Dr. Sloan gave another of his funny speeches. (By the way, what a fine comic lecturer the Dr. would make) and gave it to Mr. Whitehead about the Grand Trunk, &c. As for Mr. Holmes, who had served 17 years in the County Council and four years in Parliament, it was cruel of the tories to stick his neck in the yoke again. They ought to allow him to retire to the bosom of his family, there to enjoy the repose to which his long labors had so fully entitled him. (Laughter.)

Mr. Holmes spun out a long yarn, the main points of which were: 1st. That the country would certainly go to instantaneous destruction if he was not elected, and 2nd. that after a diligent search, he had not yet discovered how it was that the Yankees came to get all of that £125,000. Poor Holmes, the conservatives swallow him with evident difficulty. They care so little to hear his views that at most of the meetings half of them leave the room before he gets half through.

Mr. Whitehead made a very good, honest speech. He said many of the Reeves took the mileage without troubling themselves about it. He had paid Mr. Ross $1200 a year while in his employ, and would like to have such a man again, if he wanted a reliable servant. He had no particular sympathy with the Grand Trunk beyond paying the current rates for freight as the Dr. did with his pills. By purchasing nearly 100,000 bushels of wheat for his mill, he was prepared to prove that the prices paid for wheat at Clinton last winter were the highest realized by the farmers, West of Toronto. He thought it would be well for the County if it had a dozen such establishments. His motto was reform in principle and practice. True, he had voted for Cayley but he did so because he thought he was a better man than Holmes who was also a conservative. All the other votes he had given in the country were for reformers. Mr. W's plain, practical commonsense seemed, here, as at other meetings to make a first-rate impression on the honest farmers addressed.

The very best of order prevailed at this meeting to the end, the crowd—and a large crowd it was—adjourning in good humor to partake of the hospitality of Messrs. Whitehead, Hays and others at the Hotel. Although the section is strongly conservative, it was admitted that it would be well divided up at the coming election.

County Court and Quarter Sessions.

These Courts began in the Court House here on Tuesday last, and closed on Friday afternoon. There were eleven records entered in the County Court, most of them actions on promissory notes. At the opening of the Court the following gentlemen were called, and sworn as grand jurors:—David Patton, foreman, William Black, Joseph Chidely, Murdock Gordon, Thomas Jackson, Wm. Kilpatrick, Geo. Laidlaw, John Leishman, John McNab, John Stewart, Geo. Shephard, Thomas Thompson, David Walker, George Weston, W. R. Wilson, Thomas Hyslop, Robert Kydd, Samuel Smith, William Watson, Thomas Henderson, Hugh McQueen.

His Worship, the chairman then delivered his charge to the jury, going over the criminal calendar and explaining the nature of the several offences, and the law applicable to each case—congratulating the jury on the small amount of business that was likely to come before them. The Jury then retired to the Grand Jury Room, and the civil business began in the following order:

Royal Canadian Bank *vs.* Watson *et al.* Verdict for $256 74. Gordan for plff.

Street *et al, vs.* Rattenbury. Verdict for plff. $202.86. Gordan for plff.

Royal Canadian Bank *vs.* Moore *et al.* Verdict for plff $103.20. Gordan for plff.

Royal Canadian Bank *vs.* Campbell *et al.* Verdict for plff. $127.82. Gordon for plff.

Royal Canadian Bank *vs.* Rattenbury *et al.*—Verdict for plff. $182.90. Gordon for plff.

Street *et al vs.* Moore *et al.* Verdict for plff. $948.83. Gordon for plff.

Connor *vs.* Okes. Verdict for plff. $163.20. Davidson for plff.

Woods *vs.* Rankin. Interpleader.—Verdict for plff. Davidson attorney for plff. Sinclair & Walker for deft.

Marshall *vs.* Grand Trunk Railway of Canada. This was an action for a lost trunk and its contents. Compromised at $110 damage and costs. Clark for plff., Lewis for deft.

Hurley *vs.* Cashin. Interpleader suit. Verdict for plff. Sinclair & Walker for plff. Macfarlane, of Stratford, for deft.

McCarthy *vs.* Cashin. Interpleader suit. Verdict by consent for plff. Sinclair & Walker for plff, Macfarlane for deft.

The Queen *vs.* Alfred Palm.—Larceny. Verdit of Jury, not guilty.

The Queen *vs.* Michael Murphy.—Larceny. Verdict, guilty. Sentence, one month in County Jail at hard labor.

The Queen *vs.* Robert Currie.—Misdemeanor. True Bill. Traversed to next sessions.

The Queen *vs.* Samuel Ingraham, and others.—Assault. Ingraham and three others were arraigned, and plead guilty; were sentenced to pay $5 each or go to jail 21 days.

The Queen *vs.* — Fordeman. Larceny Verdict of Jury, not guilty.

The Queen *vs.* Edward McIvor, and others. Assault. McIvor and two others were arraigned, and pleading guilty, were sentenced to pay $2 each, or in default go to jail 21 days.

There were three other cases of Larceny, but the parties not being ready for trial, were traversed to next Quarter Sessions.

The following presentment was then handed in, and both courts closed:

County of Huron, } The Jurors for Our Lady
to wit: } the Queen, upon their oath present that they have examined the jail, and are pleased to find that it is well kept under the present jailor, Mr. Campaigne. The prisoners made no complaints. We, the Jurors, would call your Honor's attention to an aged female who has been in jail over eight months, said to be afflicted with insanity, we would recommend that she be removed from the cell that she now occupies, and placed in some other apartment in the jail, where she will have more liberty and more fresh air, we further recommend that she be furnished with comfortable clothing and also with such nourishment as the jail surgeon may from time to time recommend.

We, the Jurors, feel happy to congratulate your Honor, and the inhabitants of the County on the decrease of crime in this County, and hope that the justice meted out to offending parties may have a good, moral effect on the inhabitants of the County, and we hope this County may soon become a pattern of sobriety and morality to the surrounding Counties.

In conclusion, we humbly pray that it may please the Almighty Giver of all good, long to continue your Honor an ornament to the Courts of Justice in this Province.

DAVID PATTON,
Foreman

Grand Jury Room, Goderich, }
June 14th, 1867. }

Minutes of the Goderich Town Council.

Regular Meeting, }
June 14th 1867. }

The Council met, the Reeve in the chair. Members present, Councillors McKenzie, Smith, Seymour, Cameron, Kay, McKay, Leonard, Pasmore, Clifford.

Minutes of last Regular Meeting were read, approved and Signed. The Special Committee appointed to report on the advisibility of rescinding the present market by-law. That you Committee having carefully considered the matter would recommend that the by-law be rescinded.

Moved by Mr. Seymour, seconded by Mr. Cameron, that the Clerk prepare a by-law under the direction of the special Committee, consisting of Messrs Cameron, Gibbons and Hays, rescinding said by-law.

The following accounts were then read and ordered to be paid. Reid & Nairn for repairs on engine room, $6.00. James Smaill for 4000 feet hemlock plank of $8, $32,00, Thomas Andrews for relief furnished, $4.00, John McKenzie for repairing 12 chairs and furnishing 3 new ones, $30.00. The school estimate was then read, the board requiring the sum of $4000 for the current year,

Moved by M. C. Cameron, sec. by Mr. Smith, that the said Estimate together with that of last year be sent to the finance Committee to report upon at the next meeting with the view of having the same published, the Council then adjourned for two weeks.

STANLEY.

To the Edether of the Signal.

Sur,—The Bosswelis is gone to the say for change of air, and they tould me to let you now in ther absince how the cat gumped here. The day after the 24th I was in town an goin home passin by the Squires gate, who did I see but himself stannin there an a pair of beautiful gold specks an his nose. "Aria Mrs. Doolan Huney how ar ye siz he, don't ye now me?" O yis I do siz I, but it is nigh 15 year since you spuk to me or mine. "Oh Mr. Doolan" sez he, "thim wake eyes a mine has med more inimies for me than is crasses in a yard of chek, but since I got thim "diddling goggles" I can see all my guld frinds again." They are to cost me a power of money whin the election is over nigh to thousan dollars." "O dear sir I an can ye passave the road all the way to Ottawa wid thim?" No indeed I siz he, "I wish I cud for Ottawa is a hard rode to travel I believe, but tho the money is runnin out from me like suds in a sink, I'll die of convulsions an the market square afore I give in." But thin sez I, Barney had to give in an he was as great a man as you. I won't give in 'says he, "an now my oulc man or I want you to get me Mr. Doolans vote an upon my conscience I will give ye as good a chest of Japan tay as ever ye seen." Musha bad luck to you an yer Japan tay I wud'nt give it belly room (savin your presence), send it to Jon Carlin sez I, he dales in Japan articles an don't even the like to me, so thin he tould me "that if I didn't like the tay he would make Jack a Ja P. an sez he "bid would be so nice to be a magistrate lady," and de ye mind siz he" the night at the great quiltin bee at Mr. McDuel" I do sez I, and you sung Jock of Hazeldin an danced a reel wid poor Betty McDuel rest her soul, Ah! thin was the times whin we had'nt as