

Guelph Evening Mercury

OFFICE.....MACDONNELL STREET THURSDAY EV'NG, DEC. 31, 1868.

The British Bribery Bill.

Seventy cases of protest have grown out of the recent general election in Britain. If the ballot would amend such a state of things, it is no wonder that the leading Liberals recommend its introduction, and it is not surprising that a trial of it should be advocated, in the hope that it might prove effective to a certain extent in preventing such a large amount of after contests.

Shortly before the dissolution of the British Parliament a bill was passed with the intent to prevent bribery at elections by making more prompt and searching investigations into the grounds on which protests might in future be brought. Parliamentary committees are to be dispensed with, and the scrutiny is to be made by some of the Superior Court judges, and on the spot where the election took place. The judges have a character for integrity to preserve which must and will raise them far above party predilections, and it may be presumed that their decisions in some of the cases on which they are now called to adjudicate will strike terror to the hearts of those who might be inclined to attempt bribery in future. The knowledge that the law was in existence has certainly failed to prevent corruption; an experience of its execution may yet do so. Its provisions are very stringent. Under it an election petition must be presented within twenty-one days after the return is made, except in cases of alleged corrupt practices, when a petition is good at any time within twenty-eight days after the date of the payment made by any member, or on his account, or with his privacy, in pursuance or in furtherance of corrupt practices, which shall have been specifically set forth in the petition.

The act also provides that a petition signed by two or more electors, and alleging corrupt practices have extensively prevailed, or that there is reason to believe in their extensive prevalence, be sufficient cause for an enquiry. The Judge has power to examine any who may seem to him to have been concerned in the election, whether called by either of the contestants or not, and the penalty for bribery is well calculated to produce a deterrent effect. If such a charge be brought home to a candidate he is incapacitated for seven years from sitting in the House of Commons, or voting at any election, or holding any municipal or judicial office. Any other person found guilty of the same crime incurs a similar penalty. A candidate is not even allowed to treat his supporters, under pain of being allowed to sit for that particular constituency.

There is a possibility of making laws so rigid that men cannot and will not keep them, and which consequently become first a farce and afterwards a dead letter. There is this danger in the Act under notice. It makes illegal practices which have so long prevailed in connection with the elections that they have come to be regarded as their natural and legitimate accompaniments. The idea of prohibiting a man from treating his friends at election time! But perhaps the clause means no more than an abolition of the custom of keeping open houses. But however the bill in its entirety may be found to work there is no doubt that the substitution of a judge for a committee of the House will be successful and satisfactory.

THE LEADER LABEL SUIT.—At the Court now sitting in Toronto, the proprietor of the Leader was sued for libel by Capt. Prince, Chief of Police, Toronto, for saying in November last that Prince was guilty of cowardice by pretending to be sick and selling out his commission in the army during the Crimean war. The jury was discharged, being unable to agree.

Mr. M. C. Cameron told some of his friends of the Georgian Bay Canal scheme, that if a paper was signed by a majority of his constituents expressing disapproval of his conduct in regard to the project, he would resign his seat in the cabinet.

An Irishman on hearing of a friend having a stone coffin made for himself, exclaimed: "By my soul and that a good idea. Sure and a stone coffin would last a man a life time."

The Mayor of Toronto states that \$1,900 in all, and 110 barrels of flour, have been sent from that city to the Red River Settlement. A few dollars yet remain in hand.

SNOW.—Frequent falls of snow continue to take place along the valley of the Ottawa, and in Lower Canada.—It is now three feet deep in the woods.

According to the Tribune, New York city consumes between 3 and 4 tons of hair at a cost of \$2,000 per annum for its wigs and chignons.

WHELAN.—The argument in the Whelan case comes up to-day in the Court of Appeal.

A fire broke out in the store of Frank Smith & Co., London, on Tuesday morning, and goods to the amount of \$40,000 were destroyed. Three-fourths of the amount are covered by insurance.

THE EASTERN QUESTION.—The details of the Conference among the leading European powers, on the Eastern question, have been agreed on, and the session will begin on Saturday in Paris.

The sleeping car on the night mail from the Falls went down an embankment, at Eastwood, on Tuesday morning, and twelve out of the eighteen persons it contained were injured, two of them seriously.

The county council of Bruce have granted \$200 to the detective who followed up and apprehended the criminal Hong, murderer of Newtucker, thus showing their determination to assist in bringing such parties to justice.

DEATH OF MR. SHAW. M. P. P.—We regret to notice the death of William M. Shaw, member of the Legislative Assembly of Ontario for the South Riding of Lanark, which took place on Wednesday morning. Mr. Shaw was a lawyer by profession, a man of amiable disposition, and generally more esteemed for his social virtues than for his intellectual powers.

LOCAL ITEMS.

Splendid bargains in Groceries, Haddies, &c., are now to be had at Geo. Wilkinson's.

CENTRE WELLINGTON ELECTION.

The Writ for the new election for the Centre Riding, addressed to Sheriff Grange, arrived to-day.

CARIBOO.—The Woodstock Sentinel says: We are pleased to learn by the Cariboo Sentinel that our townsman Dr. Robert W. W. Carrall, has been elected by acclamation to represent the District of Cariboo in the Legislative Council of British Columbia.

ANNIVERSARY TEA MEETING.—The anniversary tea meeting in connection with the Wesleyan Church Sabbath School was held last (Wednesday) night in the Wesleyan church.

There was a large attendance of scholars, as also their parents and others interested in Sabbath School work. After an excellent tea and abundant refreshments had been served to the company, the Rev. Mr. Griffin, pastor of the church, took the chair, and made some appropriate introductory remarks. He was followed by Rev. Messrs Ball, Wood, Howie and W. W. Clarke, who gave excellent and very suitable speeches. During the evening the splendid choir of the church, led by Mr. Wheatley, sang some beautiful anthems, to the great delight of all present. Recitations were also given by Ephraim Stevenson, Edwin Hutton, and Wesley Kirkland, and an excellent dialogue by Frank Hatch and Robt. Howie. The pieces were admirably recited, and elicited much applause. At the close the customary votes of thanks were given to the ladies, the choir &c. We are glad to learn that the Sabbath School is in a very flourishing condition, as may be inferred from the following figures. There are thirty-five officers and teachers attached to the school. The total number of scholars on the roll is 341; average attendance in the morning 58, in the afternoon 204. There are over 500 volumes in the library.

G. A. D. C.—We would wish our readers to bear in mind that the Guelph Amateur Dramatic Association give their first entertainment this season in the Town Hall, on next Monday evening, Jan. 4th, 1869.

The entertainments given by them last season were very popular and largely attended, and we are assured that the coming season will not be behind its predecessor. There is no class of entertainment that deserves encouragement more than one of this kind. It takes weeks of preparation, labor and study to perfect each in his respective part, and enable him to "hold the mirror up to nature." The play chosen for next Monday is "The Drunkard, or the Fallen Saved," a moral, temperance drama which is sure to draw crowded houses whenever produced in large theatres, and is well patronized even by the clergy. The return home from college of the young heir, his marriage, his intemperate habits, his downward progress step by step, until reduced to the lowest depths of poverty and degradation, he turns to the universal antidote, the powerful conqueror of all earthly cares—Dearly is named like a "brand from the burning," gives up the horrid vice, and becomes once more a respectable member of society; in this play vividly pictured, and constitutes one of the best temperance lectures ever given. The Club have gone to great expense in procuring entirely new scenery for the play, and from a personal inspection of it, we think they deserve credit for encountering such a heavy expense at first, in order to put it on the boards in first-class style. We hope to see a crowded house on next Monday evening, as the performance will be for one night only.

DIED.

WILSON.—In Guelph Township, on the 21st inst., after a short illness, William Wilson, aged 56 years. [The funeral will take place from his late residence, near the Eramosa Road, on Saturday, the 2nd January, at 2 o'clock. Friends and acquaintances are requested to attend without further notice.]

New Advertisements.

MONTREAL TELEGRAPH COMPANY. NOTICE is hereby given, that the ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of the Shareholders will be held at the Company's Offices in Montreal, on FRIDAY, the 8th day of January next, at one o'clock, p.m., to elect Directors for the ensuing year, and generally to transact the business of the Company.

A Dividend of five per cent, for the half-year ending 20th November, has been declared upon the capital stock, which will be payable at the offices of the Company on and after Friday, 8th January.

The Transfer Books will be closed from 31st December till after the General Meeting. By order of this Board. JAMES DAKER, Secretary, December 27. 741

COTTAGE TO LET. To let a cottage opposite the farm of P. Gow, Esq., M. P. P., containing four rooms and a good cellar, 2 1/2 acres attached, splendid garden well stocked with fruit. A stable and one shed are attached to the house. Apply to MISS SMITH, Dressmaker, near Hat's Block. Guelph, 28th Dec. d1w1

WANTED, A STRONG, ACTIVE, INTELLIGENT BOY, to deliver the Toronto morning papers in Town, and learn the Book business. Apply at DAY'S BOOKSTORE, Opposite the Market. Dec. 29. d

WATCH LOST. Lost between Knox's Church and Rev. Mr. Ball's residence, on Sunday last, a lady's GOLD WATCH. The finder on returning it to Mr. Ball, or leaving it at the Mercury Office, will be suitably rewarded. Guelph, 29th Dec. d3

EDUCATIONAL. MRS. WM. BUDD, Organist of the Congregational Church, Begs to inform her Pupils and friends that her School will re-open MONDAY, 4th JANUARY, 1869. She will also be prepared to give Private Lessons on the Organ, Piano and Melodion. Residence: Norfolk Street, Guelph. December 30. d1w1w3

NOTICE. SILVER CREEK BREWERY. Farmers and others having empty barrels in their possession belonging to the Silver Creek Brewery will please return them at once, as any kept an unnecessary time after being emptied will be charged. GEO. SLEEMAN, daw 11 Guelph, Nov. 20.

New Advertisements.

ARRIVED One Case Clouds, At 20c. 25c. and 30c. AT W. STEWART'S, Guelph, 31st December d

GUELPH GRAMMAR SCHOOL

J. M. DUNN, B.A., LL.B., Head Master. G. H. PORTER, Assistant. The above School will be re-opened after the Christmas holidays, on MONDAY, 11th JAN. Fees in both Classical and English Departments 25 cents a month. H. W. PETERSON, Chairman Board School Trustees, Dec. 30.

DISSOLUTION OF PARTNERSHIP.

The Law Partnership heretofore existing between the undersigned is this day dissolved by the retirement of Mr. Webster, who has been appointed Deputy Registrar for the County of Wellington. Mr. Saunders continues the practice of the law in all its branches. Office, for the present, No. 4, Day's Block THOS. W. SAUNDERS, JAMES WEBSTER, Jr. Guelph, 24th December, 1868. d1w1w3

A Select Dramatic Entertainment.

Opening of the Season 1869. W. ANDERSON, President. THOMAS H. TAYLOR, Acting Manager. PROF. VALE, Leader of Orchestra.

The Guelph Amateur Dramatic Club will make their first appearance this season, in the TOWN HALL, Guelph, on the evening of MONDAY, the 4th of JANUARY On which occasion will be produced the great MORAL TEMPERANCE DRAMA, in 5 Acts, entitled THE DRUNKARD!

Or, The Fallen Saved! Being a powerful and vivid picture of the fall and downward progress of the victim of intemperance. The scenery to be used on this occasion is all new, and has been painted expressly for the Club. Admission 25 cents. Reserved Seats 50c. For particulars see programmes. Guelph, 24th Dec, do

THE BOUND VOLUME FOR 1868 OF THE British Workman

Infants' Magazine Children's Friend Band of Hope Sunday at Home Leisure Hour TO HAVE AT DAY'S BOOKSTORE Opposite the Market. Guelph, 29th December. dw

THE WHEEL OF LIFE! ZOTROPE and PLANCHETTE AT CUTHBERT'S.

CUTHBERT'S ATTRACTIONS For the Present Holiday Season Exceed anything that has ever been in Guelph. CALL AND SEE. Guelph, December 25 dw

R. J. JEANNERET, From England. Established in London, Oct. 1842 and in Guelph 1853. WORKING WATCHMAKER AND JEWELER. DAY'S BLOCK, Opposite the Market Guelph. Just received a choice variety of Cheap Goods suitable for Christmas and New Year's gifts. Particular attention paid to the repairing of Watches, Clocks and Jewellery. Guelph, December 17th dw

DYEING DAILY.

The subscriber, having purchased the most complete recipe for a Hair Dye ever invented, turning red or grey hair to a most beautiful dark brown or black, invites all PERSONS WHO DYE To give him a call. Resuscitation guaranteed to perfection. J. MIMMACK, Hair Dresser.

FURTHERMORE, read, the subscriber also intimates to the public that he has in good working order one of the best machines in the Dominion viz Grinding all kinds of Cutlery, viz Razors, Knives, Scissors, &c. Charges moderate, and WORK WELL DONE. JOSEPH MIMMACK, Hair Dresser, Guelph, December 4. d1w Next Post Office

F. M. WILSON, Banking, Exchange & Passage OFFICE, No. 5, JAMES STREET, HAMILTON. American Money and Silver, Drafts on New York and Sterling Exchange Bought and Sold.

Agent for the INMAN LINE of Steamships to and from Liverpool, London and Cork. Anchor Line of Steamships to Glasgow, London, and all parts of Ireland. Also, to Hamburg, Rotterdam, Copenhagen, Christiania, Havre, &c., via Leith. Upper Canada Agency of the Pacific Mail Line Steamship Company to California. Guelph, Dec. 1. daw 3m

MEDICAL HALL, GUELPH.

No. 1 WHITE COAL OIL Of the best quality. Wholesale and Retail

E. HARVEY & CO., No. 1 WHITE COAL OIL. Wholesale and Retail

AT THE MEDICAL HALL! E. HARVEY & CO., Guelph, December 21 dw

GIFTS AND PRESENTS FOR NEW YEAR. Notwithstanding the tremendous rush at Christmas, there is still at J. HUNTER'S, Wyndham Street, Guelph, not only the largest and most select, but also the cheapest assortment of general FANCY GOODS AND TOYS.

Writing Desks Dressing Cases Work Boxes, Ladies' Companions At less than Toronto Prices. Slippers, Ottomans, Wooll, Toys and Fancy Goods of infinitum. J. HUNTER'S, Opposite the English Church, Wyndham-St. Guelph, December 29th. dw

THE ROARIN' GAME. New Year's Day CURLER'S BROOMS AT JOHN A. WOOD'S Guelph, 30th December. dw

NEW BUTCHER SHOP. The subscriber has opened a new Butcher Shop on the London Road, near the Guelph Marble Works, where he is prepared to sell Beef, Mutton, Pork and Lamb as cheap as it can be bought in the market sheds. The subscriber respectfully requests a share of public patronage. Guelph, Dec 23 w4 B. B. PRESENT.

FACTORY FOR SALE OR LEASE. A good Factory for sale or to let. Apply to S. BOULT, Quebec-St., Guelph, November 19 daw 1f

New Advertisement.

Retiring from the Retail Trade. ENTIRE STOCK OF DRY GOODS TO BE SOLD OUT.

WM. STEWART, In returning thanks to his friends and the public for the liberal patronage bestowed on him for the last thirteen years, respectfully intimates his intention of retiring from the Retail Business.

In order to facilitate the entire clearance of Stock, he will on WEDNESDAY, 6th JANUARY, commence the GREAT SALE, when Goods will be offered at Cost, and in many cases under. The public should take advantage of this rare opportunity of securing first-class Goods at the Lowest Prices ever offered in Guelph. The reputation of the Stock being so well known for extra quality, and being composed of New and Fashionable Goods, all may rely on extraordinary Bargains.

On and after the 2nd of January the Books will be closed, and during the sale Goods will be sold only FOR CASH.

N. B.—This is no clap-trap sale, as the subscriber is positively retiring. WILLIAM STEWART. Wyndham Street, Guelph } Dec. 30th, 1868. dw

COME EARLY TO-NIGHT AND SECURE A KEG OR CAN OF THOSE FAMOUS BALTIMORE OYSTERS! THAT CAME DIRECT TO HUGH WALKER.

EXTRAORDINARY DEMAND! TREMENDOUS ARRIVALS. Tremendous arrivals. Express heavily laden daily with Oysters for H. WALKER.

HADDIES that are Haddies. None of your stale trash kept. ORANGES and LEMONS—Beautiful Oranges and Lemons just arrived this day. HUGH WALKER, Guelph, 31st December. dw Wholesale and Retail, Guelph

ALMA BLOCK, GUELPH. WHOLESALE. NOW OPENING.

Another Shipment of Glassware! CONSISTING OF IN PART Tumblers, Goblets, Wines Decanters, Celery Glasses Butters, Sugars and Creams Spoon Holders, Salt Cellars Preserve Dishes, in great variety Cruet Bottles, Cruet Frames Bird Fountains, Bird Seed Boxes, Bird Baths Lamp Chimneys Specia Jars, Japanned Covers &c. &c. &c.

R. RAE & CO. IMPORTERS. Guelph, 28th December dw

SANTA CLAUS HAS ARRIVED, And is superintending the RETAIL DEPARTMENT of the Guelph CONFECTIONERY Works

THE MAMMOTH CAKE To be Cut and Sold at 30c. per lb., worth 50c. Every person should have a piece of the LARGEST CAKE EVER MADE IN THE DOMINION. Please leave your order by Wednesday evening. Also, an endless variety of GOODS for Christmas Presents and New Year's Gifts! For large and small. Come one and all, come all, and see for yourselves. H. BERRY, Guelph, Dec. 21, 1868. daw 1f