Listowel Standard.

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THE LIME-KILN CLUB.

"Am Brudder Artichoke Hurricane in the hall?" softly inquired the President as the triangle ceased its echoes.

Mr. Hurricane was there. He rose from his seat and walked slowly forward to the President's desk.

"Brudder Hurricane," continued the President, "you war down on de Central Market de odder day. Instead of buying a piece of sturgeon an' a head of cabbage an' gwine home about your bizness, you stopped an' got into an argyment wid Dujan Smith about de sige of Judas when he betrayed de Saviour. Am I k'rect about dis?"

"Yes, sah."

"Arter de argyment had continued for some little time, an' when it becum sartin dat you couldn't agree, you called Smith a liar, an' he called you a human hyena. Your loud voices brought a crowd, an' a purliceman finally ordered you off de market under penalty of arrest. Am I k'rect, Brudder Hurricane?"

"Yes, sah."

"Well, den, let me ask you what difference it makes to you wheder Judas was 25 or 75 years of age when he sold out?"

"I doan' 'spect it makes any difference, sah."

"If Judas had nebber libed at all wouldn't you have jist as much work an' jist as good wages as now?"

"I 'pose so."

"If dat same Judas had been 500 y'ars old when he took dat money would you have to pay any more house rent dan now?"

"No, sah."

"Den it seems to me dat you made a plumb up an' down fule of yerself. How does it seems with you?"

"Jist dat way, sah."

"Werry good; you kin rescome your seat. When a man am satisfied in his own mind dat he has made a fool of hisself dar hain't much left to argy about. Be a little keerful in de fuchur. Let de Opostles strictly alone, it won't make any difference with you wheder dar war' twelve or twenty-four of 'em. Let de ole Prophets alone. No matter how many dey numbered or what dey prophesied, de price of cow hide boots will not be less dan free dollars while you an' your chill'en exist. Arter dis go yer own way an' mind yer own bizness, regardless of Judas Iscariot, Daniel in the lion's den, or anybody else who has been buried over a hundred y'ars. We will now take up de rig'lar order o' bizness."

PETITIONS.

Among the twenty four petitions was the following:

LIMA, O., Dec. 28, 1880.

BROTHER GARDNER—I am an applicant for the position of janitor of the Common Council of this city. Certain Aldermen have promised me their votes in case I become a member of your club. I am a poor man, hardly able to read or write, and have heretofore been restrained from making application by this fact. In case I am elected I shall strive to become an honorable upright member, obeying all rules and regulations, and working for the best interests of the club. This application is written for me by an Alderman whose veracity has never been questioned, and who is one of the best friends the club has in Ohio.

Faithfully,

GLUCOSE J. STANDOFF.

HONESTY THE BEST POLICY.

A communication from the Cooper Institute, New York, contained this query for Brother Gardner to answer: "In case a bank made a mistake and gave a customer $1,000 in place of $100, what would be the duty of that customer?"

"Dar' kin be but one answer to all sich queshuns," replied the President. "In dis speshul case I should count de money over about fo' times, to be sure I had too much. Den I'd go home an' wait fur de bank officers to come an' see me. If dey didn't come arter a week or so I'd drap aroun' to the bank and kinder menshun de matter an' git de load off my conscience. Honesty am de true policy. You may gain a few dollars by trading off a blind mule in de night, but in less'n fo' weeks yer dog will die, or de cook stove will gin out, or sunthin' or odder will occur to swaller up all be profit dishonestly made.

POLAR WAVES.

Jericho Smith, Chairman of the Committee on Popular Science and Natural Philosophy, announced that his monthly report was ready. His committee had been asked to investigate the origin of the polar waves which sweep across the country during the winter at stated intervals. They had consulted all convenient authorities, and would report as follows:

"We am satisfied dat de cold begins somewhar', but de exact pint no man kin find out. De spot on which it starts grows colder an' colder, an' bime-by, when it gets so all-fired cold dat whiskey would freeze in ten ticks ob de clock, streaks of weather scoot off dis way an' dat, an' keep growin' an' goin' till dey reach Chicago, Detroit, Buffalo an' all odder big places. Dis am de theory of de majority of dis committee. De minority, composed of Brudder Hemlock Jones, wishes me to report dat it am his candid opinyun dat polar waves am de result of wind blowin' ober stone sidewalks an' aroun' de co'ners of brick buildin's."

A REBUKE.

Sunflower Hopewell, Chairman of the Committee on Commerce, said that his committee had been asked to investigate and report on the query from the Ohio Agricultural College: "Are we building too many railroads?" One whole day had been spent in investigation, and the committee had come to the conclusion that this nation could stand only about two more railroads.

"What day was it dat you investigated?" asked the President.

"Wednesday, sah."

"I thought so. Dat mawnin', as I war on my way down town, I noticed you skippin' into a saloon on Beaubein street. I happened in dat nayburhood agin arter dinner, an' de Committe on Commerce war still playin' cut-throat eucher in de back room. At what stage of de game did you make up yer mind dat dis kentry war about ready to quit on de railroad bizness?"

Sunflower would have looked ghostly if it were possible for a colored man to turn pale. He did the best he could, and as his knees knocked together the President went on:

"Reason Swift an' Decline Tompkins, de odder two members of de committee, will please walk up heah."

They came forward, heads down and feet dragging, and Brother Gardner said:

"I didn't 'spect dat de best report which dis committee would make would have any pertickler effeck on the world at large, but de club has a right to believe dat you would do yer dooty in a straightforward manner. As a penalty fur de way de club has bin treated, you men stan' suspended from all rights an' privileges fur de space of six weeks. Do you wish fur a wote of de club on de matter?"

They didn't. Each one shuffled out, got under his hat, and went down stairs with a burden of sorrow strapped to his back.

CAN'T COME IN.

Giveadam Jones secured the floor to announce that Wah Hap and Chin Lung, two Detroit Chinamen of considerable note, had made personal application to him for membership in the club. The time had now arrived when the club must face the question of admitting or rejecting celestials, and he hoped it would be settled at this meeting. The question being open to debate, nearly all the old members had a word to say.

Waydown Bebee objected to any such membership. While a Chinaman was a colored man, there was something wrong about his eyes.

Pickles Smith didn't feel like voting against any good man, but no applicant who wore a pig tail down his back could get a vote from him.

Rev. Penstock presumed that Chinamen had souls, but it was better for them to join some society where the proceedings were conducted in their native language.

Samuel Shin, Colonel Root, Deacon Dodger, Verasity Johnson, Welcome Smith and others spoke in favor of admitting "John," but on a call of the yeas and nays a majority of sixteen was shown in favor of keeping him out. There being no further business before the club the meeting adjourned for one week.

SERIOUS ACCIDENT

HANOVER, Ont., Jan. 6.—Willie Johnston, aged 12, son of J. H. Johnston, met with a serious accident this morning by the explosion of a dynamite cartridge. The lad was not aware of the dangerous nature of the cartridge, which he struck with a hammer, when it instantly exploded, tearing off his thumb and seriously mutilating his hand. It was found necessary to amputate a portion of his hand.

A TERRIBLE REVENGE.

RIO JANIERO, Jan. 6.—On the 18th Dec., a mob of three hundred burst into the prison at Entrerios, in the Argentine Republic, and hacked to pieces four slaves, who had murdered the son of their owner.

AROUND THE WORLD.

—The *Irish Canadian* has new dress, and looks extremely well. But it still persists in olding itself outside in.

—Patti has been singing with great success at Berlin. After the last performance the Emperor of Germany presented to her his life-sized portrait, with a dedication in his own handwriting.

—Queen Victoria has placed Osborne Cottage at the disposal of the Empress Eugenie for a few weeks. The Empress will take up her abode at her new residence in North Hants this spring.

—If the Burdett-Coutts estate is carried into the courts, as is now threatened, to test the validity of the clause in the will about marriage with a foreigner, even that colossal fortune may dwindle like a snow man under the sun.

—The French of New Orleans are a third of the whole population. They almost exclusively occupy all the lower or older part of the city, speak French in their daily intercourse, and have little to do, in trade or society, with the rest of the people.

—It is now settled that Oxford University shall endow Professor Monier Williams's Indian Institute with $1,250 a year on certain conditions. No site for the building has yet been selected, and nobody seems to know what the Institute is really to be.

—Mrs. Brassey the well known writer, is going to take another cruise in the Sunbeam early this month for her health. The yacht has been undergoing an elaborate refit in the Mersey, but will sail from Cowes.

—McCook Hall importuned Esmer Foster to marry him, at Pittsburg, Pa., and she persistently refused. Another and more favored suitor was in the house, and Hall saw Esmer kiss him at the door on parting. Wild with jealous rage, he called the girl back into the parlor and shot her mortally.

—The Duc de Persigny's widow writes to the *Figaro*, excusing herself for not having helped her daughter, Madame Friedland, now in prison for forgery. She says she is in most narrow circumstances so long as her mother, the Princess de Mukowa, lives, and that she has offered to sign any amount on the strength of her reversion, but that the creditors of her daughter and husband will not accept her offer.

—One of the growing industries of Australia is the cooking and canning of rabbits. The Colas Preserving Company near Melbourne had on an average 7,000 of these agile rodents brought in every night at the beginning of the past season, and the supply increasing, orders were given to limit the daily quantity to 2,700 pair. During the season, which lasted for 25 weeks, 675,000 rabbits were canned by this establishment alone.

—Application was made in the Toronto courts recently, in behalf of the township of Morrisburg for a *mandamus* to compel the townships of Winchester and Williamsburg to pay their proportions of the sum of $7,000 acquired by the united school section for school purposes. The townships opposed the demand on the ground that subsequent to the requisition for their proportion of the amount they had ceased to form a part of this school section. The application was discharged.

—In some of the islands of the South Pacific where the clam attains a great size, diving for clams is one of the occupations of the natives. The diver thrusts a sharp iron rod into the mouth of the clam, which closes its shell with such tenacity that it can be pulled out of its bed. Occasionally divers who have carelessly allowed themselves to be caught in the grip of too powerful a clam have only saved their lives by cutting off their fingers, and leaving them at the bottom of the sea.

—A. Bamberger is Chicago's largest furniture manufacturer. His son fell in love with an Oshkosh girl, while visiting that city, and married her with out parental consent. The father went to Oshkosh to take a look at her and his decision was that she would not do for introduction into the family. The son would not give her up, however, and has not only been cut off pecuniarily, but the angry parent has had him arrested on a charge of stealing some trifling articles in order to separate him from his wife.

—The American colony in Dresden had a bazar on Dec. 15, the proceeds of which are to go toward building an American church. The ladies who had stalls were dressed in costumes, mostly as Turks, while one appeared as an Indian. The bazaar was a great success, and among the visitors was the Queen of Saxony. Some people, however, think it would be better to insure an income to the present American clergyman before setting about building a new church.

—The deep sympathy which actors cherish for sorrow and suffering, despite all the friction with unpleasant sides of the world which most of them undergo, has just been shown in London. A member of this body died some weeks ago from injuries received on the stage and left one little daughter, a friendless orphan. All the principal persons connected with the stage in London gave a performance at Drury Lane to assist the child, and between money taken at the doors and subscribed $10,000 were collected.

—A Galveston millionaire, applied to by his friends to allow his name to be put up for the United States Senatorship, said he aimed at another office. "A seat in the Cabinet, eh?" "No, not that." "Foreign mission?" "Nor that. Gentlemen, I'll be candid with you. For years I have been trying to get the city authorities to have the slop barrel at my back gate emptied once a month, and have failed. I am determined to have that barrel emptied, so I have applied to the City Council for the position of driver to a scavenger cart."

—Preparations are making for the municipal elections in Paris of Jan. 9. Mlle. Louise Michel virtually confesses the hopelessness of the Communists in this trial of strength by advocating the nomination of dead men and of women. These will be, she says, the pure idea of the social revolution, dominating without individuality; the idea that de destroy is impossible; the idea, invincible and implacable like death. Meanwhile the moribund municipality has expressed an opinion in favor of payment of members, and has voted 300,000 francs for the reimbursement of expenses incurred by the present councilors in the discharge of their duties.

—Boycotting threatens to become a dictionary word. There are many similar instances in the English language. All Englishmen speak of tramways, but half don't know that the word is short for Outramways, Mr. Outram having invented some improved method of locomotion by aid of such means. Nor is the boy who sings, "If I had a donkey what wouldn't go, wouldn't I wallop him, oh, no, no," conscious of a reference to Admiral Wallop, a kinsman of Lord Lymington, whose victory over a French squadron won him great popularity among his countrymen.

—Mr. Labouchere, the observing editor of the London *Truth* noticed the number of dresses worn by a Paris lady at Trouville in a single day. They were nine. First she donned a breakfast gown, then a walking dress, then a bathing costume, then another walking dress, and after that a yachting toilet. That makes five. The four others were a tea gown, a dinner dress, a casino costume and a ninth and last very careful toilet for a select little supper and card party. But this fashionable lady might have done worse things at Trouville. She might have spent her time reading new novels from Paris or trifling with susceptible young men from across the Channel.

—Felix Pyatt has produced many random statements, but his last surpasses all yet preceding from his fanciful brain. "Scotland is not Papal," he remarks, "like that other Celtic nation, Ireland. At Glasgow, for instance, the largest Scotch town, the affinity of the race with Paris is everywhere to be seen, in the architecture of the city, and in manner appearance and costume of the inhabitants. Nothing resembles Paris more than Glasgow and Edinburgh, where laughter is heard in the streets, where the women wear caps and chat like French women, and where the houses are six stories high, like those on the Rue St. Honore. Thus it is only natural that the Roundheads should fraternise with the Socialists, and the Puritans with the Jacobins."

—With the exception of Patti and Nilsson both foreigners, and Judic, who earns some two hundred thousand francs a year in France and in Russia, there are but few millionaire among the actresses of Paris. Croizette is rich through her marriage, and lives in comfortable opulence, and is, moreover, an excellent mother. Mlle. Moissett, too, has become rich through her recent marriage; Leonide Leblanc possesses a handsome fortune in money and objects of art. Angelo, Adele Courtois and Delval possess each their million. Valtesse, is intelligent and well advised and Elluini is rich both in jewels and landed property. Mlle. Krauss, Mlle. Dazam, Rosinr Bloch, Sangalli, Mme. Pasca, and Schneidy may be put down as having a fair income, as twenty-five thousand francs ayear. Blanche Pierson and Bode of the Athenee are likewise well to do, and live comfortably.

—Some time ago, when Prof. Mommsen's library was destroyed, a movement was set afoot in England among the admirers of the historian for the purpose of indemnifying him to some extent, as far as money could do so, for the great literary loss he had suffered, but the Professor, from mingled motives, no doubt of patriotism and pride, gave it to be understood that he would rather not be put in the way of accepting such a favor from a foreign nation. His own countrymen, however, did not receive a similar intimation; and it is now announced that a sum of 106,000 marks ($25,400) has been collected throughout Germany and presented to the historian of Rome, ostensibly in recognition of his having on the 30th of November last reached his 64th birthday. One banking firm in Berlin is said to have alone contributed 10,000 marks.

—The turquoises of New Mexico are worked at Mount Chalchuitl (the Indian name for turquoise) about 22 miles southwest of Santa Fe. The rocks in which they are found are distinguished by their white color and decomposed appearance, somewhat resembling china clay, giving evidences, according to Prof. Silliman, of great alteration, due to the escape through them of heated vapor of water, and perhaps of other vapor and gases, by the actions of which the original crystalized structure of the mass has been completely decomposed or metamorphosed. The turquoise is found in little veins and nuggets, covered on the exterior with a white tufaceous crust; but stones of great commercial value are comparatively rare, and many tons of the rock may be crushed without coming to a single specimen. The blue color of the turquoise, which, chemically, is a hydrous aluminum phosphate, is due to copper oxide derived from the associated rocks, of which the Mexico specimens contain 3.81 per cent.

—Scarcely less rare than a black tulip of the amazing natural curiosity now being exhibited in the Berlin Aquarium. A milk-white raven, with pale pink eyes and red legs, recently received admission to the great central aviary, but his presence there spread such general panic among the inmates that it has been found necessary to remove him to a separate cage. The other birds instinctively recognized that this Corvine Albine was abnormal, and therefore terrible. Many of them became total abstainers from food and drink, through sheer fright, while he shared their quarters, and hudd ed together, shivering, at as great a distance from the fearful anomaly as the limits of their prison would permit them to attain. In all respects, save his extraordinary hues, the raven is as other ravens. His appetite is apparently insatiable, and he ministers to it with a formidable beak. He was found, with a coal-black brood of brothers and sisters, in a nest, built by his parents, on the topmost branch of an old tree in the Georgenthal, a valley in Thuringen. This snow-white raven is at present one of the lions of the German capital.

—Some further details respecting the morganatic marriage of the Emperor of Russia are published in the *Figaro*. The ceremony took place last summer at the Castle of Tsarkoe Selo, during the manœuvres at the Krasnof camp. The witnesses were Count Alexander Alderberg, Minister of the Court; Gen. Ryteef, one of the Czar's aides de camp, and an intimate friend of his Majesty; Count Milutine, Minister of War; and Gen. Loris Melikoff, now Minister of the Interior. There is, it appears, no truth in the report that the Czar asked his uncle, the Emperor William, to grant the Princess Dolgorouki a high title. The second wife is styled the Princess Yourieff, one of the titles belonging to the Romonoffs. At first, as is well known, the marriage was well received by the different members of the imperial family, some of whom, the Czarevitch for example, spent the summer at the baths of Hopsal, while others, of the Grand Dukes Constantine and Vladimar, came to France. But, little by little, a spirit of conciliation has gained the upper hand, thanks in a great measure to the initiative of the Duchess of Edinburgh. The same change is noticeable among the other classes of Russian society.

—The States of the Isle of Jersey will celebrate on the 6th of January the centenary of the battle in which the last attempt made by the French to obtain possession of the island was foiled. On the date named, in 1781, Baron de Rullecourt, a Flemish adventurer in the pay of the French Government, managed to land about 700 troops without being observed. The invaders were able to march to the market place of St. Heliers before an alarm was given, and surprised the Lieutenant-Governor, Major Corbet, who, in a moment of weakness, signed a capitulation and ordered the commandant of Elizabeth Castle to surrender that fortress, which that officer refused to do. So far, however, Rullecourt's enterprise had succeeded, and had it not been for the courage and decision of Major Pierson, of the Ninety-fifth Regiment, the island would certainly have been taken, though there were 1,900 British troops and about 2,000 of the local militia under arms, to oppose whom the invader only had 700 men, though he skilfully managed to conceal the smallness of his force. A desperate engagement occurred in the market place, the British troops being led by Major Pierson. Rullecourt was killed, and more than half his force shared the same fate, the rest being taken prisoners, and, in the moment of victory, Major Pierson, too, was shot dead. But for the gallantry of this young officer, who was only 23 years of age, the islands would not now belong to England.

—Texas, with an area of more than 274,000 square miles, has a great variety of soils, but until recently but little has been known of the country between the Brazos and Rio Grande and north of the thirty-first parallel of latitude. Formerly it embraced the hunting grounds of the Apaches and Comaches. The wild horse, the buffalo, antelope, bear, deer and turkey feasted and fattened upon the rich grasses, and were found in vast numbers. When the Fort Yuma stage line was started, and forts were located and occupied, adventurous stockmen established ranches. Then the superiority of this vast area was manifest as a grass-producing and cattle-grazing district. The grasses were vastly better and the water more abundant and lasting than in most of the other parts of the State. When in 1878 it became known that the Pacific Railway Company were arranging to push their road to a speedy completion, enterprising grangers began their encroachments upon the stock ranches. They found the land most sightly to the eye. The wheat, corn, cotton, oats, rye, barley, millet and vegetables yielded far better crops than they had anticipated, and in 1879, when drought had caused the great grain and cotton fields of south and central Texas to wither and dwindle away, they, with poor tillage, raised fair crops; the rain fell in season, the grass grew, and the country that had been deemed worthless as arable land soon became known as the best in the States. This knowledge has extended, the section is rapidly filling up and this year's crop far exceeds that of 1879.

THE GENEVA AWARD.

NEW YORK, Jan. 6.—The Chamber of Commerce to-day passed a resolution favoring the distribution of the balance of the Geneva award to persons who lost vessels and cargoes by the depredations of the Confederate cruisers and to those who were obliged to protect their commerce under the American flag by the payment to the underwriters of extra insurance.

—It is the thing now for young gentlemen to carry little perfume bottles, which they use at the door when they make a call. The clove trade is in danger.

AFFAIRS IN IRELAND.

LONDON, Jan. 5.—A special corresponden writes from Ireland to the Glasgow *Evening Times*, giving an account of an interview held by him with a gentleman who might not unfairly be described as a Fenian head-center. So intimate is he with all the proceedings of the fraternity, that he states when the land agitation was inaugurated a determined resistance was made to it by the supporters of the Fenian propaganda. That organization then had 63,000 members paying a small weekly contribution. Scarcely had the Land League movement commenced when the Fenian agitation as an organization collapsed, and there was an almost immediate transference of the members to the League. The correspondent adds that there were included in the leadership of the land movement men who speedily developed into more thorough-going Young Irelanders than ever before lived. The writer then proceeds as follows: "Since the extreme party began to have greater weight in the councils, Fenian principles have had freer play. The distribution of arms, which was never entirely suspended, has since been prosecuted with vigor, and the number of Sniders now scattered over the country cannot be well calculated. Any man, I understand, who puts down one pound in the proper quarter, can be provided with a Snider rifle and 100 rounds of ball and cartridge, with waist belts, shoulder belts and cartridge pouch, a sword and bayonet for the rifle. It is unnecessary to state that the one pound does not cover the expenses, but the difference is made good from a fund contributed to by sympathizers with the proceedings. One or two persons whose names have been before the public of late, and who are credited with effecting

The Change in the Land Agitation.

which it has recently assumed—I mean the change toward the repeal movement—have been particularly active in distributing arms, and the strategies resorted to for carrying out this purpose would be worthy of a better cause. Though matters are taking this turn the Fenians are not hopeful that the rising can be effectually carried out in Ireland. They acknowledge that a great portion of the people of the country are not disposed to run the risk that will attend a rising, anxious as they are to secure self-government, therefore the leaders of the organization have long been turning their eyes in another direction, and have come to the conclusion that the blow must be struck at home and at the English Parliament. Another Clerkenwell outrage, they imagine, would go a great way to the furtherance of Home Rule. They pray that Britain may be entangled in some active foreign controversy, for then their opportunity will come. In that emergency they conceive that all that will be needed in order to paralyze the country and the Government, will be the destruction of a few public edifices, particularly about the dock-yard towns." Two more bottles of petroleum were found yesterday, one at Carrier's dock and the other one at Huskisson's dock.

A dispatch from Dublin to the *Times* says: The effect of such an anomaly and satire upon the constitution as the continuance of a criminal trial in the absence of the accused can hardly be favorable to the administration of justice. The people will only see that Mr. Parnell and his associates care as little for the Queen's Bench as for the law itself, and ignore its authority when it interferes with the pursuit of their political object.

The London correspondent of the Manchester *Guardian* says that previous to the issue of the War Office circular directing that a strict guard be kept over the armories of the volunteers, more than one hundred rifles were stolen from one place near London.

LONDON, Jan. 7.—The Home Rule party yesterday resolved not to discuss the land question in the debate on the address in reply to the Queen's speech.

TRALEE, Jan. 8.—The examination of the officers of the Tralee branch of the Land League continued to-day in the jail in consequence of information received by the police that there would be a dangerous riot if the prisoners were taken through the town.

LONDON, Jan. 8.—In consequence of the report that a number of the members of the Land League in Cork would be arrested to-day all the members of the organization and a great crowd of spectators were present at the meeting, but there were no arrests. A resolution was passed that in the event of the committee being arrested fresh officers of the League should be elected.

DUBLIN, Jan. 9.—A land meeting which was to have been held near Tralee, to-day, was prohibited. A large crowd, however, were assembled. Four hundred troops were on the ground. The local magistrate explained the reason for the prohibition and the people quietly dispersed. Davitt subsequently addressed a large assembly from a hotel in Tralee.

LONDON, Jan. 9.—English Radicals are dissatisfied with the tone of the Queen's speech in reference to Ireland, and consider the Government too conservative. It is believed that the Dutch Republic in South Africa will yet be re-established.

The best attainable information indicates that Mr. Forster will propose on Monday the re-enactment of the main provisions of the West Meath Act, with a permissive suspension of the Habeas Corpus Act. In answer to a letter from the Trades' Union Committee, thanking the Government for its promise of legislation on the land question, and endeavoring to extract a pledge in favor of peasant proprietorship, Mr. Gladstone declares that it would be premature and inconvenient to state the nature of the intended proposals until they are explained in Parliament.

ROME, Jan. 8.—The condition of affairs in Ireland continues to be a matter of much concern to the Pope, who, it is reported, has sent fresh instructions to some Irish bishops, with a view of promoting the re-establishment of order.

NEW YORK, Jan. 8.—A London special correspondent telegraphs: The increased activity of secret societies of various sorts in England already excites some uneasiness, more perhaps than most people are willing to concede. During the past few weeks frequent attempts have been made to throw railway trains from the track, and outrages of a mysterious character have been committed in Birmingham, Oldham, Sheffield, and other places. Some of these attempts and outrages are suspected to be the work of men connected with the Irish Land League, while others are ascribed to foreign agents laboring in the cause of Nihilism and Socialism. There is clearly a necessity existing for a strong and vigilant Government at such a moment, and the Ministry must feel that they cannot afford to be made sport of by Mr. Parnell and the obstructives.

but in the *Times* and *Daily News* this morning, that the Government will shortly take strong measures to prevent further filibustering. It is announced to-day that they will prolong the debate on the address to the utmost limit.

DUBLIN, Jan. 10.—A large land meeting has been held at Armagh. The farmers are forcibly hunting over the landlords' property in county Galway. Three arrests have been made in connection with the attempt to murder a policeman near Headford last week. A desperate attempt was made on Sunday to murder a school teacher at Tulla named Dorney. He was under the protection of the police, between whom and a party of disguised men a regular fusillade was maintained.

Yesterday's meeting of the English and Irish Liberals to express dissatisfaction at the incompleteness of the change proposed in the land system is attracting much attention. The *Times* says: A body of politicians, English as well as Irish, are conveying the menace that unless sweeping changes in the land system, going far beyond the lines of the act of 1870, are proposed a stand will be made against coercion.

It is rumored that Earl Cowper desires to resign the office of Lord Lieutenant of Ireland.

LONDON, Jan. 11.—The Fenian scare has extended to Portsmouth. The authorities have received various anonymous warnings of a contemplated attack on the Government establishments. They do not attach much importance to them.

More than fifty-five members of Parliament attended the meeting of the English and Irish Liberals yesterday, and only about five represented Irish constituencies. It is stated that none of those at the meeting could be classed as Whigs. All were sincere admirers and adherents of Gladstone.

The joint deputation of Home Rule and Liberal members which is to wait on Gladstone on Wednesday will urge that it is essential in order to secure unity and enthusiasm among the Liberals in Parliament and contentment in Ireland that the Land Bill shall include a comprehensive scheme of peasant proprietory, accompanied by the three F's. The bill, as hitherto sketched by the Government, would annihilate the Liberal party in Ireland.

DUBLIN, Jan. 11.—In the Court of Queen's Bench to-day the Crown announced their case complete, with the exception of evidence of one witness now on the way from London.

DUBLIN, Jan. 11.—The property defense association urge persons of all creeds and politics to join in stemming the tide of crime and outrage.

The English and Irish members of Parliament arranging for a deputation to wait on Gladstone in regard to the Irish land reform, held a numerously attended meeting to-day. Shaw (Home Ruler) depreciated the idea of British members forming part of the deputation, for fear Gladstone might consider it an attempt to dictate. It was arranged, however, that Gladstone should be informed of their desire for a strong land bill.

MINNIE PALMER'S PRANKS.

Every one has a kindly feeling for youth and beauty in petticoats, and sorry to find the shapely head filled with vanity and obstinacy. Miss Minnie Palmer is an example of the unpleasant combination. During her starring career Miss Palmer has been treated with much kindness by both public and press, critics generally having been more complimentary than severe. Without stopping to consider whether she had cause to be grateful under the circumstances, looking upon the kindliness shown her as so much encouragement toward the accomplishment of better results, Miss Minnie became puffed up in spirit and assumed desert, perhaps beyond the measure of merit. Her first demonstration was to cast off all maternal restriction, and take her affairs into personal control. Next she made matters so very uncomfortable that Mr. Scanlon, the best feature of her company, found it convenient to seek other employment. And during her brief engagement in Chicago, which closed last evening, she succeeded in performing a number of feats that indicate hot temper and great self-esteem, as well as strong headedness. She summarily evicted Mr. Hugh D'Arcy from his position as business agent, and assigned as a reason for so doing that he was incompetent. It took her a year to find this out. Next she brought about the defection of Mr. George Davenport, who has quit the company. The latest evidence of "self-management" was developed yesterday, when Mr. Marcus Mayer wrote to the little lady declining to be further interested in her welfare. At the beginning of the season Mr. Mayer, at the solicitation of Mrs. Palmer, undertook to fill dates for Miss Palmer, and did so up to the present time. Yesterday the little actress, in conversation with Mr. Mayer, informed him that she had filled eight weeks after Jan. 22, with some Chicago party. This considerably surprised Mr. Mayer, and he remonstrated with her. Miss Palmer pertly informed him that she thought herself quite capable of managing her own affairs. She was told that she could do as she pleased in future. Mr. Mayer declared he would have nothing more to do with fixing dates for her, and should cancel all those he had made subsequent to Jan. 22, in order to obviate chance of litigation. Miss Palmer seems now to be wholly without proper management. Mr. D'Arcy has begun suit against her for injury to reputation in publishing in a daily paper the statement that he was incompetent to manage a theatrical enterprise. The suit is set for call January 3, at which time Miss Palmer [illegible].—*Inter Ocean.*

HIGH OR LOW HEELS.

Some time ago Mr. Morey devised an apparatus for measuring the steps, which he has called an odograph. It consists of a small cylinder, rotating by means of clockwork in its interior, and of a pen which marks on the cylinder, and is raised at each step by an impulse communicated by a ball of air beneath the sole. Observations have been made on a number of young soldiers. It was ascertained that the step was longer in going up hill than in going down hill. It is shorter when a burden is carried; longer with low than with high heeled boots; longer when the sole is thick and prolonged a little beyond the foot that when it is short and flexible. It thus appears that the heel may with benefit be almost indefinitely lowered, while it is disadvantageous to prolong the sole of the boot beyond a certain limit, or to give it an absolute rigidity. Some influences which lengthen the step lessens its frequency; so in going up hill the step becomes at the same time longer and less frequent. In walking on level ground, the length of the step and its frequency are always proportioned; the quicker the walk the longer the step. Nature here proves the folly of the high heel in a most practical manner; and the objection to them is equally applicable to ladies; and if they could only see themselves as they totter along perched up on high heels and walking as if stepping on egg-shells, their ludicrous appearance would at once stop the fashion. Anyone accustomed to country life and long walks on the hills must have felt that terrible leg weariness which a day's shopping with a lady entails. The slow, irregular walk, the frequent pauses, and the difficulty of taking short steps with proper balance, are trials well know to men. Without a good shaped low heeled boot, no lady, however pretty her foot or graceful her carriage, can walk becomingly, with ease to herself, and a proper flexion of the muscles of the feet and legs. Half the ricked ankles come from heels being too high to form a proper steady base for the weight of the body, and the narrow pointed toes prevent their proper expansion and use. Make a footprint in the sand and then go and place your boot in it—what margin there will be! Horses even, with horny feet suffer terribly if their shoes are cramped and do not allow the foot to expand. Much more might be written of the accompanying ills of tight and high heeled boots; but as long as women will bear the pain so as to appear taller and to have tiny feet, so long will they do violence to nature's gifts. Legs and feet were given us for use to exercise the body upon. In fact, so cramped up and stilted has fashion made the walk nowadays that a lady with wooden legs might pass muster in the park undiscovered. —*The Lancet.*

FATAL EXPLOSION.

Thrashing Machine Accident—Loss of Life.

LUCAN, Jan. 12.—A steam thrashing machine at work on the 11th concession of London township, at the residence of Mr. Ironside, blew out the end of the fire box, drawing the trucks and engine into the barn, and making a total wreck of the separator and cleaner. Quite a number of persons were in the barn at the time, but all escaped without injury except one young man, second son of George Bolton, who was killed. The whole thrashing apparatus is a complete wreck.

Another Account.

LONDON, Jan. 12.—By the boiler explosion on the eleventh concession of London township yesterday Alexander Bolton was killed. The force of the explosion was terrific, sending the boiler seventy or eighty feet through the barn, where the steam separator was at work. Some fifteen men and boys were at work in and about the place, which was owned by Mr. Alexander Ironsides, but all fortunately escaped saving Bolton, who was instantly killed. The boiler passed over the heads of some of the men. The machine was made by the Joseph Hall company of Oshawa. The cause of the explosion is attributed to gross carelessness on the part of the attendant in charge in leaving his post. The pressure on at the time of the explosion must have been about 175 pounds. An investigation is probable.

—The *Pall Mall Gazette* has for the first time given practical effect to an idea hitherto undeveloped in London journalism, the publication of extracts from the sermons of great preachers of the day before.

DEATH BY STARVATION.

The Miseries of a Poor Old Colored Couple in Toronto.

TORONTO, Jan. 11.—For many years an old colored couple named Anderson have lived at the corner of Spadina avenue and Bloor street. Beyond owning the property upon which they lived the Andersons were in very poor and destitute circumstances. Three months ago a purchaser was found who paid $500 down, only $93 of which sum however was handed over to the old colored couple, the real estate agent claiming the balance for fees and other expenses. When the place was sold they moved to a small shanty in Seaton village. At the commencement of the cold weather the couple were badly provided to withstand it. The shanty was a cold, tumble down affair, and there was very little money in the purse to procure coals or a suitable stove. One night Mrs. Anderson was badly frozen, and even since has been unable to get out, being paralyzed and bedridden. Her old husband did what he could for her, but during the last cold snap he got badly frozen likewise, and became unable to get about. The neighbors do not appear to have been aware of the circumstances in the Anderson shanty, for when one of them called at the place yesterday and found Mrs. Andersen naked and dead in her bed, and the husband in a dying condition, no fire and no food in the house, she was considerably startled. It was believed that the couple had both food and fuel in the house, as it was known that they had a little money left out of the $93, but it appears that they were both too feeble to be able to get out of the house to buy anything. Mrs. Anderson died of sheer starvation, and her husband's life is fast slipping away from the same cause. He is unable to speak, is almost unconscious and too weak to eat, now that food has been procured.

AN EVENING WITH CHINESE SPOOKS.

The Woman who Sees and Talks with the Murdered.

The strange powers of the bedeviled Chinese woman whose astounding walks and talks with ghosts have been already chronicled have been put to a severe test. Last evening Sergt. Bloomfield conducted the Chinaman who has been in custody for more than a year upon suspicion of having chopped to death an old Chinaman and a young Chinawoman on Government street a year ago, to the "den" of the seer. The Sergeant was accompanied by a medical gentleman. The ghosts were very accommodating. At short notice they appeared, seized the woman, threw her on her back on the bed, and straightway she began to tell the ghastly story. They identified the prisoner as a murderer, detailed with minuteness the manner in which the crime was committed, described the axe with which they were done to death, the articles the murderer had stolen and their disposition. All eyes were turned on the prisoner. In accordance with the orthodox rule he should have trembled, turned pale and sunk through the earth or confessed his crime. But the obstinate creature, instead of doing either, laughed and jeered at the woman and her familiar spirits and remarked, "You sabe that woman. She lazy. No good. Heap tell lies. Bimeby, spose she die she go to allee same Amelican man's hellee." The medical gentleman, meanwhile, had not been idle. He felt the woman's pulse and arrived at the conclusion that she and her ghosts were shams. So under his directions a tub of water was turned over the woman and in a trice—in the twinkling of an optic—she came out of the trance and announced that the spirits had disappeared. Leaving directions to "souse her well" in case of a return of the trance the visitors withdrew, impressed with the belief that the woman is a vile humbug.—*Victoria Colonist.*

A ROMANTIC STORY.

The story of M. de Lesseps' marriage to his present wife is told by a London writer. She "was nearly twelve years at the chateau of which she is now the chatelaine, staying on a visit. Her family name was de Braga. She was the perfection of the French Creole type, and very romantic. She had been in the habit of listening to accounts of the diplomatic and material difficulties which M. de Lesseps overcame in Egypt, Paris and London, and of the courage and humanity he displayed in assisting the plague stricken Frenchmen when he was Consul at Alexandria. The relations she heard impressed her as the narrative of Othello's adventures impressed Desdemona. His courtliness, chivalrous manners and vivacity enchanted a girl used to the indolent planters of the Isle of France. She was at La Chesnaye when all Europe was astir about the achievement of the Suez enterprise. Mlle. Braga grew silent and solitary. One day, in the garden, she saw M. de Lesseps walking on a terrace. She plucked a rose, and going up to him begged of him for her sake to wear it at dinner. He asked whether she did not mean it for his son? No, it was for himself. Her host explained to her that he was on the wrong side of sixty, while she was not yet nineteen. That did not matter. What his age was never occurred to her. She had only thoughts of his greatness and goodness. In short he was her *beau ideal.* How was it possible for a man reared on the sunny side of a Pyrenean mountain to reason down the feelings this confession aroused? Time was given to Mlle. de Braga to reflect, and she was made to understand that no friendship would be lost were she to change her mind after the banns had been published. The marriage was celebrated contemporaneously with the Suez *fetes.*"—*London News.*

SLIPPERY TIMES.

"Slippery times, these," remarked Mr. Weatherwise as he approached Mr. Yarnspinner at a snail's pace, on the avenue yesterday. "Slippery times"—and Mr. Weatherwise incontinently sat upon himself, so to speak.

"The ice is a little smooth," conceded Mr. Yarnspinner, helping his friend up, "but it's nothing to what it was aback in the war. Why we had a sleet in 1864 that was so slippery that rubbers were discarded, and a man who put on a pair of nutmeg graters slipped up and broke his neck."

"You don't say?"

"Yes; it's a fact. But that's nothing to what it was in 1857. In that winter we didn't have much snow, but it did some tall sleeting. I remember walking down the avenue with Beau Hickman, and at the corner of First street a friend handed him a $5 note. Beau reached forward to take it, when he commenced to slip and slide, and right up Capitol Hill he went."

"No stopping?"

"No, sir. He floundered along like a woman on a run, the steam pouring out of his mouth like a locomotive, and as he rounded the crest of the hill, his coat flapping like a signal of distress in the breeze, he represented a living example of things slippery. He didn't wind up until he reached the navy yard."

But here Mr. Weatherwise, who had been reclining against the lamp-post, began, despite all his efforts, to slide up it, and was only rescued after great exertions on the part of Mr. Yarnspinner. "I stick to it," remarked Mr. Weatherwise, as they proceeded on their journey, "that these be slippery times."

—One of the most interesting objects offered to public inspection at the Sydney International Exhibition was a dwelling house exclusively made of paper, and furnished throughout with articles manufactured from the same material. Walls, roof, floorings, and staircases alike consisted of carton-pierre; the carpets and curtains, bedsteads, lamps, sheets and counter panes, towels, bootjacks, baths, kitchen utensils, &c., were one and all preparations of papier mache, as were the very stoves used for heating the rooms, in which large fires were kept burning daily throughout the duration of the exhibition. Several banquets were given in the paper house by its owners to the commissioners, members of the press and foreigners of distinction. All the plates and dishes, knives and forks, bottles and drinking vessels used at these entertainments were fabricated entirely and solely of paper. Should these paper buildings come into vogue they may be expected to superinduce some striking changes in the rates of fire insurance, at present calculated upon a basis of brick and mortar.

WAKING THE WRONG MAN.

How He Thought Woodtick William, the Miner, Rode on the Rail.

The fact that every business has its particular lingo, which is a dead language to people of other professions, was never more clearly shown than in the following article by Bill Nye, in the Chicago *Tribune*:

One night about half after 12, I judge, I heard somebody step along to the window of my boudoir. Hearing it that time of night I reckoned that something crooked was going on, so I slid out of bed and got my Great Blood Searcher and Liver Purifier, with the new style of center fire and cartridge ejector, and slid up to the window, calculating to shove a tonic into whoever it might be that was picknicking around my claim.

I looked out so as to get a good idea of where I wanted to sink on him, and then I thought before I mangled him I'd ask if he had any choice about which part of his vitals he wanted to preserve, so I sings out to him:

"Look out below there, pard, for I'm going to call the meeting to order in a minute. Just throw up your hands, if you please, and make the grand hailing signs of distress, or I'll have to mutilate you! Just show me about where you'd like to have the fatal wound, and be spry about it, too, because I've got my brief costume on, and the evening air is chill!"

He didn't understand me apparently, for a gurgling laugh welled up from below, and the party sings back:

"Hullo, Fatty 'is that you? Just lookin' to see if you'd fired up yet. You know I was to come aroung and flag you if second seven was out. Well, I've been down to the old man's to see what's on the board. Three is two hours late and four is reported on time. There's two sevens out and two sections of nine. Skinney'll take out first seven and Shorty'll pull her with 102. It's you and me fer second seven, with Limber Jim on front end and Frenchy to hold down the caboose. First five is wrong side up in a washout this side of Ogallala, and old Whatshisname that runs 258 got his crown sheet caved in and telescoped his headlight into the New Jerusalem. You know the little Swede that used to run extra for Old Hotbox on the emigrant for a while? Well, he's firing on 258, and he's under three flats and a coal oil tank, with a break beam across his coupler and his system more or less relaxed. He's gone to the sweet subsequently too. Rest of the boy's are more or less demoralized and side tracked fer repairs. Now, you don't want to monkey around much, for if you don't loom up like six bits and go out on the track, the old man 'll give you a time check and the Oriental Grand Bounce. You hear the mellow thrill of my bazoo."

Then I slowly uncocked the Great Blood Purifier and, moving to the foot-lights where the silvery moonbeams could touch up my dazzling outlines, I said: "Pardner, I am pleased and gratified to have met you. I don't know the first dang busted thing you have said to me, but that's my misfortune. I am a plain miner, and my home is the digestive apparatus of the earth, but for professional melody of the chin you certainly take the cake. You also take the cake basket and what cold pie there is on the dump. My name is Woodtick Williams. I discovered the Feverish Hornet up on Slippery Ellum. I am proud to know you. Keep right on getting more and more familiar with your profession, and bye and bye, when nobody can understand you, you will be promoted and respected, and you will at last be a sleeping car conductor and revel in the biggest mental calm and wide shoreless sea of intellectual stagnation that the world ever saw. You will——"

But he was gone.

Then I took the pillow-sham and wiped some of the pulverized crackers off the soles of my feet and went to bed in a large gob of gloom.

WINTER SESSIONS

It would not be difficult to hang a history of England on pegs supplied by the dates at which Parliament has been exceptionally summoned for the despatch of business. In the humdrum course of political events, home or foreign, Parliament is accustomed to meet within the first week of February. When any other date is chosen "history is being made." It was so in 1830. George IV. was just dead, and the new King had his new Parliament, which brought back the whigs to power after twenty years' wandering in the wilderness of opposition. The Reform bill being defeated in committee on the 18th of April, Parliament was straightway dissolved. The new Parliament met again on the 21st of June, the debates on the Reform bill being temporarily closed at twenty minutes past six on the morning of Saturday, October 8, when the Lords threw it out on the second reading by a majority of forty-one. Seven years later died William IV., and the new Parliament was opened by the young Queen on November 20. The session was marked by disorders arising out of Irish affairs, and the hero of the hour was Smith O'Brien. In 1846 Parliament met on the 22nd of January. Having repealed the Corn laws Sir Robert Peel came to grief on an Irish coercion bill, which was refused a second reading by 292 against 219. In the course of the debate, which lasted six nights, Disraeli deplored the non-appearance of "another Canning, a man who ruled the House as a highbred steed." "The temper of the House is not now as spirited as it was then; and," Disraeli added, "I am therefore not surprised that the vulture rules where once the eagle reigned." Another Irish Coercion bill was triumphantly carried through both Houses in 1848. Four years later Parliament met in November. The Duke of Wellington was dead, and Disraeli, as Chancellor of the Exchequer and leader of the House of Commons, found himself called upon to pronounce a panegyric on the dead soldier, an occasion which he improved by incorporating in his oration a eulogy passed by M. Thiers twenty three years earlier on a second rate French Marshal. In 1854, winter troubles having commenced in the Crimea, Parliament was summoned, meeting the Queen on the 12th of December. Three years later, on the 3rd of December, 1857, the country being yet agitated and depressed by a great commercial crisis, Parliament was called together to pass a bill idemnifying Ministers for the suspension of the Bank Charter act. In 1867 Parliament was called together on November 19 to vote the supplies necessary for the Abyssinian war. There was a winter session in 1868, but the proceedings were purely formal, and arose in connection with the general election of that year, which led to the establishment in power of Mr. Gladstone. Finally, in 1878, there were two winter sessions. Parliament met earlier than usual (on the 16th of January) to vote £6,000,000 in menace of Russia, and was summoned again in December to vote money on account of the still unsettled bill for the war in Afghanistan.—*N. Y. Herald.*

A WATER FAMINE.

ORANGE, N. J., Jan. 8.—A distressing water famine prevails in this place. Nine-tenths of the wells are dry, and farmers drive their cattle miles for water. The livery men are carting water from running streams and selling it at $2 a load to factories to use in their boilers. The street sprinklers are mounted on runners, and water therefrom is sold to families for drinking and cooking.

—George Stephenson's idea of the fate of the cow when she gets in the way of the locomotive needs revision. In Waterloo on Monday the cow met the locomotive. The locomotive lies calmly in the ditch; the cow wends her way sedately, solemnly, gravely, switching her terminal member in quiet triumph. Another legend overturned, another vindication of modern ideas. Bravo, bovine!—*Chronicle.*

—During Forbes' lecture at Chatham, Ont., the other night, an amusing incident occurred. Forbes was doing a bit of pathos about the vultures not eating soldiers' corpses at Isandula. While his voice was dropped to its deepest and most moving intonations, one of the auditors thought he saw a point in favor of the vultures and began clapping, as did some others, much to Forbes' disgust, who snubbed the interrupter in words of sepulchral severity.—*Planet.*

ONTARIO LEGISLATURE.

THE LIEUT.-GOVERNOR'S SPEECH.

TORONTO, Jan. 13.—The Ontario Legislature met in the Parliament Buildings at 3 o'clock to-day. The Lieutenant-Governor attended the Assembly in state for the purpose of opening the session. The attendance was very large. This being the first formal act of his Honor, the leading citizens and public functionaries attended in considerable strength.

His Honor was pleased to deliver the following speech:

Mr. Speaker, and gentleman of the Legislative Assembly: It affords me much pleasure on this, the first occasion since my appointment as Lieutenant-Governor, to meet the representatives of my native Province, and to welcome them to its capital in the discharge of their Legislative duties. I congratulate you on the revival of commercial prosperity, the result of the abundant harvest of the past year, on the revival of trade abroad, and on the increased demand for lumber, the receipts from which source I am happy to say have considerably exceeded the estimate of last session. It is much to be regretted that the Dominion Government have taken no steps to obtain and have hitherto shown no intention of seeking to obtain from the Parliament of Canada legislation confirming the award determining the northerly and westerly boundaries of Ontario, made two years ago by three most distinguished arbitrators chosen by the two Governments, and who had before them all the evidence obtainable from the most diligent researches both in America and Europe, or brought to light during the many discussions bearing on the subject that have taken place during the past century. The result of the inaction of the Dominion Government in this respect is to defer the settlement and organization of a large extent of country; to deprive the inhabitants of that district of those safeguards of peace and order which they, in common with all others, are entitled to enjoy, and to withhold from the people of Ontario the benefits which the possession of that territory would afford. It is obvious that the earliest possible construction of railway communication between the existing railway system of Ontario and the Canadian Pacific road is of the very greatest importance to the interests of this Province. An appropriation having been made for this purpose by an act of a former session of the Legislature, a measure will be submitted to you for carrying out the object of the act with the least possible delay. The commissioners appointed to inquire into matters connected with the agricultural industry of Ontario have, by close and unremitting attention to the duties assigned to them, collected a large amount of information of a most interesting character and of much value. The evidence and report of the commissioners will be laid before you in the course of the session. I trust that the publication of these documents will stimulate enterprise and encourage a spirit of improvement among the farmers of the Province, and at the same time produce a favorable impression elsewhere of the openings which Ontario affords to the capital and energy of the intelligent and experienced agriculturist. I am sure you will agree with me that the Province is under no small obligation to those gentlemen who, as Commissioners, placed their services without any pecuniary recompense at the disposal of the Government, and will share the feeling of satisfaction with which I have observed in how cordial a spirit the proceedings of the Commissioners have been regarded by the public. The subject of constructing the new Provincial buildings required for the safe keeping of the public records, the due performance of the ever increasing business of the departments and the proper accommodation of the Legislature and of the Provincial library as well as the safety and health of the members and other persons engaged in the public service has received the earnest attention of the Government. Competitive plans were invited, and sixteen different designs by as many competitors were submitted. None of these designs were entirely satisfactory, but three of those which were considered to have most nearly complied with the conditions of the competition were under the terms of those conditions secured for the Province; subsequently it was deemed advisable to permit the authors of the best of the three and certain other competing architects, on whose plans experts had reported most favorably, to modify and alter their plans, with a view to a reconsideration of their merits by the Government when so altered. The time has not yet sufficed for this to be done, but I confidently anticipate that the result will be to secure the commencement in the coming spring and the early completion of buildings worthy of the Province, and at a cost not exceeding the amount already voted for that purpose by the Legislature. The reports of the several departments of the public service will be laid before you. I am glad to find that the several institutions under the management of the Government are in a state of satisfactory efficiency, and that others to which Provincial aid is given are respectively performing services to the community fully commensurate with the aid afforded them. The report of the Minister of Education as usual possesses deep interest, showing as it does to what a high standard of excellence as compared with other countries, the educational system of Ontario has attained and I doubt not that you will agree with me that no efforts should be spared to maintain it in the fullest state of efficiency. While marked improvement may be observed in elementary education the expense of that branch has been less in the last three years than previously. Gratifying progress, too, has been made in the department of higher education. I commend the very important subject of the administration of justice to your continued and careful attention. Profiting by the example of Great Britain and other states in which the anomaly of two systems of pleading and practice in the civil courts has been abolished, and by other reforms effected in the judicature, a bill will again be laid before you for the purpose of consolidating the Superior Courts, establishing uniformity in pleading and practice, and making further provision for the administration of justice. Amongst the other measures to be submitted to you are: a bill relating to railways and making provision for the greater safety of railway employes and the public; a bill for protecting the public interest in streams and rivers within the legislative authority of the Province; a bill giving increased stability to mutual insurance companies and one dealing with the question of market fees which have long been a source of complaint by the farmers of the Province. In view of the many extensive and beneficial improvements in our laws effected since the Province obtained, thirteen years ago, control over its local affairs, and of the further legislation which will engage your attention during the present session, I commend to your serious consideration the question whether the time has not come when the public interests may be sufficiently protected, and at the same time a considerable saving of expense be effected, by confining future legislation to every alternate annual session except in cases of special urgency. The public accounts of receipts and expenditures for the past year and the estimates of moneys required for the services of the current year will be laid before you. The estimates have been prepared with every regard for economy, consistent with the public interest. I trust that the labors of the session now commencing may, when brought to a close, reflect fresh honor on the wisdom and patriotism of our legislators, and prove permanently beneficial to all classes of our people.

His Honor then left the House.

The Speaker shortly after took the chair, and after the passage of the usual formal resolutions concerning the procedure of the House the House adjourned.

—The St. George *Leader* is the best creditor in the country. In the last issue it publishes a report of a railway meeting and credits it to the St. George *Leader*.

MISSING JOHN SAGE.—The Brantford *Courier* says: "Rumor was current in this city the past few days that the body of John Sage had been found in a box at the Stratford station, that his throat was cut, and that he presented a horrible appearance. Mr. John Brown telegraphed Chief Wilson to learn if there was foundation to the report, and received a reply that there had been no body discovered. It was also reported, and our contemporaries gave currency to the same, that Sage's body had been found, one in a barn on Sand Hill, the other, that it had been found inclosed in a box in the North Ward. We also heard the rumor, but decided on learning facts before saying anything, and which we ascertained to be groundless. A reward is now offered for the missing man, and there is every likelihood that his whereabouts will soon follow." The father of the missing man was in Hamilton the other day, consulting with the Chief of Police in respect of the disappearance of his son, and offering a reward for his recovery, dead or alive.