

The Union Advocate.

Established 1867. NEWCASTLE, MIRAMICHI, N. B. WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 7, 1874.

OUR FREE SCHOOLS.

The enemies to the New Brunswick School Law, carrying their unholiness of opposition into the New Year which has just been so auspiciously inaugurated, are busily engaged in the work of disseminating all the old and useless arguments that have been used again and again without the slightest effect upon the honest supporters of Free Schools.

Dissolution of Parliament.

A day or two ago we received a telegram to the effect that the Canadian Parliament had been dissolved, and that the writs for the elections about to be held were made returnable on the 21st of February, with the exception of the electoral districts in British Columbia and Manitoba, and Chitouchint, Saguenay, and Gaspe, in Quebec, all of which writs are returnable on the 12th March.

The Chatham Meetings.

Our Chatham contemporary is rapidly improving in his views of the Board of Education, and in a nervous and excited manner strikes away in the endeavor to hit somebody or somebody, but fails in the attempt. This sheet, the organ of the Anti-Professionalists, is down on the Trustees of the Middle District, because they did not call an annual meeting. These men will no doubt be able to give their reasons for so doing, and will probably survive the attack made upon them.

The Mitchell Testimonial.

A number of the subscribers to the fund in aid of procuring a testimonial to be presented to the Hon. F. Mitchell, met at Chatham on Saturday. At the meeting it was determined to procure a SILVER DINNER SERVICE, and a GOLD WATCH AND CHAIN, and to cost somewhere in the vicinity of \$5,000.

The Kent Election.

At the recent election in Kent there appears to have been "ballot stuffing," which is a practice much to be condemned by all lovers of fair dealing. O'Leary's friends would have it to appear that the "stuffing" was all done for Sayre, but a correspondent of the Daily Telegraph, in a clear and lucid letter, dispels the delusion, and shows that the anti-school party were the principal aggressors.

School Examination.

The school at Douglastown which is conducted by Mr. Tremblay, was examined on the 24th inst. There are 64 pupils on the roll, of whom 62 were present at the examination. It was gratifying to see such a large number of scholars, and to observe their clean, tidy and intelligent appearance.

Chatham Branch.

We are informed that already a large portion of the first roll of twenty per cent. on stock subscribed in aid of this railway has been paid in to the Secretary, A. D. Shirreff, Esq.

Meteorological.

Table with columns: DATE, Time, Height of Barometer, Thermometer, Maximum Thermometer, Minimum Thermometer, Thunder.

Masonic.

Officers of Lodges for Current Year. MIMAMICHI LODGE, CHATHAM. M. Hutchison, P. M. W. M. J. James W. Fraser, S. W. A. Johnston, J. W. Jones, J. T. D. Johnston, Sec. J. John Faberingham, S. D. A. Alex. Robinson, J. D. George Wilson, S. S. John Sinsler, J. S. W. I. Niddie, L. G. W. C. Smith, Tyler.

Canadian Lumber Traffic.

The following tables show the extent and direction of the Canadian lumber traffic during the last year: France, 864,525; English India, 608,007; England, 12,776,984; St. Pierre Miquelon, 15,745; Spain, 4,016; Portugal, 42,707; Holland, 38,104; Foreign India, 37,163; St. Domingo, 8,812; Madeira, 110,637; Spanish India, 394,605; Canary Isles, 24,775; Africa, 5,606; United States, 9,164,308; New South Wales, 10,326; Victoria, 10,770; New Zealand, 477,205; South America, 55,700; Chili, 50,478; Peru, 50,478; Sandwich Islands, 10,124; China, 49,711; Valparaiso, 2,560.

Fatal Railway Accident.

The Rev. Mr. Keay, Presbyterian clergyman, stationed at St. Andrews, N. B., was accidentally killed on the railway near McAdam Junction, N. B., on Monday last. From accounts of the dreadful occurrence contained in the St. John papers, it appears that the Rev. gentleman had visited St. John and Fredericton, and on Monday day left the city last named to return home. The train he was in was detained some time at McAdam Junction, awaiting the arrival of the train from Bangor. One account states that as this train approached, Rev. Mr. Keay, who was standing on or near the track, in attempting to get out of the way, slipped and fell right before the train. Another account is that the St. Andrew's train which leaves the station after the arrival of the Bangor train, started sooner than Mr. Keay expected, and that, attempting to get on while the train was in motion, he fell and the two last cars of the train passed over him. His head was severed from his body. The Rev. gentleman went to New Brunswick, from Scotland, about twenty years ago. He studied at Aberdeen, and was distinguished for his attainments in the classics, and no less for love of physical sports and many exercises. His spirit was then and his mental and physical powers great. Professor McDonald, of Dalhousie College, was a fellow student of his.

Complimentary.

The Ontario Journal of Education publishes entire the New Brunswick plans of Improved School House Architecture, having obtained stereotypic forms from those already printed in this Province. The Plans are highly recommended to the Trustees as supplying a want long felt in Ontario. This is most gratifying to our Free School system generally, and especially to Messrs. W. F. West & Co., the virtual designers of these architectural improvements. The same Journal, which devotes some twenty lines to Nova Scotia, and about half the number to school matters in Quebec, gives no less than four of its columns to the New Brunswick system, quoting Mr. Rand's Annual Report, and is evidently impressed with its ability and practicability as the basis of a thoroughly sound educational system. It also declares, after publishing our method of paying teachers according to the work done and the class of certificate held, "we think our principals are entitled to these arrangements most excellent one, and we beg to call the attention of the Department of Public Instruction and also of the Attorney-General to the advisability of incorporating some provision of this nature in the New School Law of Ontario." This commendation, we repeat, emanating as it does from one of the foremost educationalists in America, is a most gratifying testimonial to our Chief Superintendent, and is the very best reiteration of those insidious charges so frequently brought against the School Law of New Brunswick.

Married.

Dec. 29th, at the residence of the bride's father, by the Rev. Samuel Russell, Mr. JOHN VANDANBURG, of River Falls, N. B., to Miss ELIZABETH PARKS, both of the Parish of York.

Terrible Hurricane in England.

A terrible storm occurred last week in England. The telegraph wires were prostrated in all directions, and the lines that are now working being news that the storm extended all over the north of England and far into Scotland.

Died.

At Chatham, 6th inst., ROBERT, infant son of the late Mr. and Mrs. James Walsh, aged eleven days.

Meteorological.

Reported for the Dominion Gov't by G. A. Blair, Esq. DECEMBER-JANUARY.

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Correspondence.

A FEW FACTS FOR THE RATE PAYERS OF BATHURST. We have now, in full operation, a High School that is a credit to the County, with an attendance of nearly 80 scholars and under the management of thoroughly competent teachers, as was shown by the recent examination just before the Christmas holidays. In the two departments of this School, the children of rich and poor side by side, on a perfect equality, whether they may be Catholic or Protestant. As yet the Trustees of the District have not used the power they possess to obtain from the Government a compulsory assessment, evidently intending to afford us an opportunity of assessing ourselves at the annual meeting. Hitherto we have refused to do so, and to avail ourselves of the advantages of the School Law may have; but I respectfully urge, if the time has not at length come, when however much we may dislike the law, we ought to use it for our own advantage while in force.

Ocean Race.

The brigantine "Champion," Captain Fleming, belonging to Messrs. W. F. West & Co., sailed for Porto Rico about noon today, and the brigantine "Elsie," Capt. Lovegrove, belonging to D. Croan Esq., sailed for the same destination about an hour after her. Both of them are crack sailers, and their captains have each put up a stake of \$400 as to which will reach port first. The race will be an interesting one.

Frozen to Death.

The Eastern Chronicle says that a named Wier, at Churchville, while in a fit of delirium tremens, wandered away from his boarding house, and was found next morning frozen to death by the roadside.

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