Huron Signal.

GODERICH, AUG 31, 1865.

CONSTITUTIONAL PATCH-WORK.

It being taken for granted that Canada is on the eve of important constitutional changes, the whole matter is treated by a number of writers as an open question, and hence we have as many theories afloat as there are parties to the wordy warfare being waged. Most of these theories are of the crudest description, and many of them are as utterly devoid of patriotism as they are of sound sense. The Montreal *Witness* is governed by one of those calm and serene spirits who think that our plan is to cultivate friendly relations with the States, to go on quietly and be good boys and no harm will ever befall us.—From what we can gather of this scribe's views, he seems to think that Canadian or rather British American Nationality will be a complete failure, and that as we are sure to drop into the lap of the Great Republic at some time, the sooner we do so the better. A number of newspapers East and West express similar ideas with more or less plainess and it is only reasonable to suppose that they are supported in this course by a portion of the population. It is right, of course, that we should have perfect freedom of speech—that every man should be at perfect liberty to utter his honest convictions, but it is easy to see that this continual dabbling in political economy, in which such a number of different plans are advocated, must exercise a mischevous tendency.—We believe it is desired by most intelligent Canadians that a renewal of the Reciprocity Treaty should be secured, and yet the annexation talk of a number of our confreres is just the very thing to destroy all hopes of that object being accomplished. A good many Americans seem to believe that the adoption of an exclusive policy will *force* us to make overtures towards an entrance into the "glorious Union." Such an unfair and *ungenerous* spirit should make us *eager* to press on Confederation—to open the North West—to improve our own routes to the ocean,—to show in a friendly way that however much we regret the closing against us of American ports, we are determined to gird ourselves for the race of commerce and manufacture. Were we all actuated by such a spirit of noble, independent self reliance, those of our American friends who now endeavor to work upon our money-making fears would probably see it to their advantage to renew the treaty after all. But we will take care to let them know that we are fearful of financial ruin if they turn us away from their doors. A number of our writers and speakers openly advocate annexation and thereby furnish American obstructionists with the best arguments they could wish. Hence, we shall not be at all surprised if we are deprived of the commercial advantages flowing from Reciprocal trade in a few short months. No doubt, in that event, our annexationist people will make a hue and cry for such a constitutional change as shall remove the restrictions established for the unworthy purpose of *forcing* us to give up our allegiance to Britain, our institutions, our traditions and all we *should* hold dear in a national point of view. One way in which a man can make himself famous is to fasten upon some startling or out-of-the-way idea in politics or religion and ride it as a hobby until people can't help noticing and talking of him. We fear it is too much the case that our annexationist editors are more directly actuated by a morbid desire for notoriety than by high-minded patriotism. They indulge in their pusillanimous anti-British talk week after week until noticed by the *Globe* or some of the big thunderers.—Now, when the lucubrations of a country editor are seriously criticised editorially in the *Globe*, the lucky fellow considers his fortune made. He copies the criticism and retorts at double length—keeps it up for a week, a month, six months.—When he meets with the literate denizens of his Little Podlington he pushes the hair from his manly brow and alludes to "that controversy between me and the *Globe*," and seriously thinks of adding to his own advertisement, as an inducement to new subscribers, that "this journal having engaged in a controversy with the *Globe*, must be considered one of the most ably edited sheets in the Province." We do not envy such people their notoriety, but we think it a great pity they should endanger the best interests of their country to obtain it.

Those who work so eagerly at what we call Constitutional Patch-Work seem to forget that there is only one Constitutional policy really before the country, which is emphatically the policy of Canada and of the British Government concerning us, namely, a Federal Union of British North America. Why not discuss the merits of such a Confederation, *for and against*, in a manly spirit, instead of endeavoring to persuade Americans that we are most anxious for immediate annexation?

THE POWER OF HUMBUG.

Humbug (a low word) is defined by dictionary manufacturers as "an imposition," and *humbugs* as "imposters." It is not necessary to be reminded as we are that it is a low word, but it is, nevertheless, so expressive, and has become so familiar that it ceases to strike offensively upon ears polite. Imposition, or humbug, is as old as the Israelitish Jacob.—Through all the varying phases of human nature, as far back as we have historical record, we find that men have been strictly conservative in their liability to be humbugged. In our historical rambles through the fascinating, wondrous *past*, we stumble, at every step, upon humbugs. We find humbug kings, priests, prophets, warriors, authors and merchants. In every age we discover that there have been men keen enough to discover the weakness of human nature in this respect and unscrupulous enough to profit by it, and yet it is a remarkable fact that notwithstanding the repeated exposure of imposition, human gudgeons have taken the hook again on a slight change being made in the bait. How are we to account for the gullability of such a large portion of our race? Is it owing to some wide-spread defect in the popular understanding, or to a natural love for being imposed upon, on the same principle that the representations of the theatrical actor are applauded in proportion to the completeness with which he invests himself with a character not his own. However that may be,—and the question must be left to the careful consideration of a select committee composed of Barnum, Tom Thumb, Blondin and Ada Isaacs Menkins—it is a notorious fact that nothing in this wicked world is easier than to humbug the public, none so successful in a superficial sense as those who know how to wield the magician's wand-aright. "Is it possible," asks the intelligent reader, "that *I* can be the victim of humbug?" Yes, friend, the probability is that you are humbugged in some shape or form every week of your life. If you are wealthy, and we trust you are, you are humbugged into a dim belief that your bottle of champagne came from France, that your sherry is *not* manufactured from whiskey, that the bitterness of your crack ale is *all* due to hop, that what you eat is pure, that the capital article you read has not been stolen by its alleged writer from some more clever scribe. Your boots if too tight are sure to stretch, and if too large they will shrink to the foot. That is the principle acted upon by a large number of those who supply your daily wants (not always, we are sorry to say, excepting your newspaper), and you may count yourself particularly fortunate if you escape the grossest traps set for your money.

One would think that, in this age of steam, popular education, social science, and all that pertains to literature, science and the arts, people would not be so easily imposed upon, but we question very much if, at any other period of the world's history, humbug was more successful or more generally practiced. Take the department of medicine alone: The humbug quack flourishes in purple and fine linen, while the really educated, in many instances, have to struggle for a mere subsistence. A man keeps a mean little saloon here, moves to the States, studies medicine superficially for a few months, announces himself as a full-grown doctor of twenty years experience, says *he* alone can be relied upon to cure certain loathsome diseases, and thousands of simple fools crowd to his standard—and *he becomes rich in a few years!* One after another, quacks, from Holloway to Tumblety, puff themselves into notice through the press, amass princely fortunes, and retire in favor of some new aspirant; and still the great gullable Public runs after the newest nostrum as eagerly as ever. In politics the power of humbug is everything. Money can do a great deal—can cover mediocrity and prave the way for success, but, after all, *humbug* sways the sceptre. Give a man plenty of impudence, a glib tongue, and a sneaking, crawling spirit, and what can he not accomplish? He strikes the Public between wind and water with some miserable cry, he utters the most hollow, clap-trap pretensions, professes what he knows to be the most humbugging opinions or principles, and straightway he is hailed as a victorious champion, while at the very same time he laughs in his sleeve at his dupes. Did people train themselves to a thorough disgust with humbug in all its shapes, depend upon it *worth* would more frequently find its true level in the management of national affairs, and the imposters would be driven forth from senate and synagogue, from municipal boards and sinecure offices, covered with confusion and disgrace. The only remedy we know of for the humbug pest of society is *practical common sense*. Let every individual endeavor to sift it to the bottom, and the practice, if it leads to painful revelations, will yet be of immense service. We are truly a privileged people—let us therefore see to it that we are humbugged as little as possible, for humbugged we surely will be if we do not watch with unceasing carefulness.

GODERICH POST OFFICE.

SUDDEN CHANGE IN ITS MANAGEMENT.

The people of this town were very much surprised last (Monday) night when it became noised abroad that Mr. Watson had been summarily ejected from his position as Postmaster, and the office placed in charge of Mr. Archibald Dickson, *son of our Member*. It is due to Mr. Watson to state that his dismissal arose from a system of depositing monies belonging to the Post office Department contrary to the spirit of a standing order. We believe every dollar belonging to the department now lies in the Bank of Montreal, and, as we understand the matter there is no charge against him of embezzlement or anything of that kind. The irregularity of which he was guilty, was hot, we are informed, uncommon with postmasters throughout the Province; but it was an irregularity, considering the standing order, and therefore we are not prepared to say that Mr. Griffin was wrong in recommending his dismissal, although many believed that a warning should have preceded the action.

Much as our citizens were surpised at the dismissal, which came on us like a thunder-clap, the feeling was intensified into unqualified indignation when it became known that, without consulting our wishes, or even hinting at a change, a young man, *and that young man the son of our member*, was taken from the Seaforth office and placed in *permanent* charge, as it is alleged, of the Goderich Postoffice. Surely there must be some mistake! Surely Mr. Dickson would not outrage the feelings of the people of this town by securing the appointment of his own son, when it is so well known that we have plenty gentlemen in our midst capable of conducting the Post Office honestly and efficiently! We have nothing to say against Mr. Archibald Dickson's fitness, but we should be failing the performance of a public duty did we not say candidly that if his appointment be permanent it is deprecated by every man of every party in this town. We trust it will be found that Mr. Dickson is only in charge until a permanent appointment is made, and that no such stigma may be allowed to rest upon our member, who has hitherto deserved the respect and esteem of his constituents; and if the first impression received by the public proves to be erroneous, we shall rejoice to assist in removing it. In the meantime we await further developments.

RIFLE MATCH.

STRATFORD VS. GODERICH.

On Thursday, the 24th inst., a very interesting Rifle Match between the Stratford and Goderich Volunteers came off on the splendid range of the latter on the flats near this town. The arrangement was that the firing party was to be composed of ten men from each of the Stratford companies and the same number of our Goderich volunteers, the range to be at 150, 200 and 300 yards, five rounds per man at each range. The Stratford men arrived by train at noon and were met at the station by their opponents, who entertained them with a solid lunch preparatory to the day's exercises. At two o'clock the combined forces marched down to the flats, the ranges were laid out in front of the fine iron targets, of which we have two—and the firing commenced in good earnest. The Stratford Infantry were opposed by the Goderich G. Artillery and the Stratford Rifles by the Huron Rifles. The Stratford men went at their work carefully, but before long it became apparent to all that they were going to be beaten. Both of our companies made splendid scores, that of the Rifles being one of the largest we have seen on such occasions. Quite a number of spectators were on the ground and much interest was felt in the result. We are happy to be able to state that the utmost harmony prevailed during the day, not even a harsh word being said to mar the spirit of good humor which marked the conduct of each competitor. From the following score it will be seen that our Goderich Volunteers were victorious by the large number of 198 points:

Huron Rifles.

Rank and Name.	150 yds.	200 yds.	300 yds.	Total.
Lieut. W.T. Hays	13	15	12	40
Ensign John Davison	18	17	12	47
Sergt. M. J. Wright	17	13	9	39
" Geo. Graham	13	13	9	35
Corp'l Jno. McIntosh	14	16	15	45
" W. Salkeld	14	17	5	36
Private B. Seymour	16	16	13	45
" W. Mills	12	12	11	35
" Jno. Mitchell	17	13	10	40
" W. Pennington	13	11	9	33
	147	143	105	395

Stratford Rifles.

Capt. Service	7	10	0	17
Sergt. A. McCulloch	12	11	6	29
" R. Lang	15	6	2	23
" J. McPherson	18	9	8	35
Corp'l W. Watson	14	9	7	30
Private A. Nicol	13	9	5	27
" G. Pattill	11	15	0	26
" W. Hepburn	10	8	7	25
" J. Milne	14	10	9	33
Bagler W. Imlach	14	13	4	31
	128	100	48	276

Goderich Artillery.

Capt. Ross	12	8	5	25
Lieut Kirk	11	14	12	37
Sergeant Walker	13	14	10	37
Private Thomson	16	10	10	36
Passmore	18	13	11	42
Dancey	15	11	10	36
McPherson	13	13	14	40
Addison	17	14	10	41
White	15	15	13	43
Jordan	12	11	9	32
				369
2 off for error in target when check'd				2
			Total	367

Stratford Infantry.

Lieut James	15	11	7	33
Sergeant Smith	10	8	2	20
" Smithwick	18	8	0	26
Private Burrett	16	16	11	43
Rigg	15	14	10	39
Ross	9	6	2	17
Rumsey	12	6	5	23
Fuller	10	8	8	26
Hector	13	14	11	38
Nicol	13	7	3	23
			Total,	288

Goderich Artillery,	367	
do Rifles,	395	762
Stratford Infantry,	288	
do Rifles	276	564

Majority of points in fav. of Goderich, 198

THE DINNER.

At 8 o'clock p.m. the Stratford volunteers were entertained by their hosts and victors, together with a few invited guests, at a Dinner in Dark's Hotel. Of the repast we need only say that it was in every respect worthy of one of the best caterers in Canada. The table, which was handsomely laid and ornamented with flowers, was covered with all that a hungry rifleman could crave, the bill of fare, indeed, embracing every solid and luxury of the season. The table was waited upon capitally by a large force of polite assistants—by no means unnecessary, when we remember the scenes of confusion often witnessed at public dinners.

Capt. Ross occupied the chair and Lt. Hays the vice-chair. On the chairman's right sat Capt. Service, of the Stratford Rifles, and on the left Lieut. James, of the Stratford Infantry. The vice chair was supported by American guests and Stratford Volunteers. About fifty guests in all sat down to dinner, which we need hardly mention was heartily enjoyed.—The blending of the uniforms of Artillerymen, Rifles and Infantry made up a very lively scene, which was as purely military as possible.

On the removal of the cloth the usual loyal and patriotic toasts were given from the chair and greeted with rousing rounds of cheers.

The chairman then said that as proposing the next toast, The Canadian Volunteers, would be asking them to drink their own healths, he would on the present occasion limit it to their Stratford guests. He was happy to say that out of three matches between the Stratford and Goderich Volunteers the latter had come off victorious twice. (Applause.) Perhaps on the next occasion fortune would favor the other side. (Hear, hear.). He had much pleasure in now proposing 'The Stratford Volunteers.'

The toast was received with all the honors, including "For they are right good fellows."

Capt. Service, in response, said in Parliamentary usage it was customary for the youngest member to move the address, and in matrimonial matters the youngest had generally to respond to addresses; so, on the same principle, it devolved upon him, the meanest shot on the ground that day, to return thanks on behalf of the Stratford men. (Laughter. Capt. Ross, "Proposed by the meanest shot of Goderich.") He (Capt. S.) considered himself captain of the crack company of Stratford, but he felt that they ought to be ashamed of their beating. In former matches they had come out pretty close, but they had now to knock under entirely. (Laughter.) After going through such a glorious campaign at "the front" he had thought his men prepared for anything, but he had to confess that they were most handsomely thrashed by Goderich. He had taken the trouble to look over the score of the latter, and he had no hesitation in saying that it beat anything of the kind he had seen published in Western Canada. (Cheers.) He hoped to meet them again and beat them if possible. He heartily thanked them for the kindly reception they had given the Stratford companies. (Applause.)

Lieut. James, on behalf of the Stratford infantry, responded likewise, thanking their hosts for the handsome manner in which they had been received. Alluding to a portion of Capt. Service's speech, he said although his company had been beaten by their Goderich opponents, they had not been surpassed by the "crack Company of Stratford."—(Laughter.)—He hoped next time they would meet on neutral ground where they might reasonably expect better success than on a range which the Goderich men were so well acquainted with. On behalf of his company, he returned his sincere thanks to the Goderich Volunteers for their handsome behaviour on the occasion.

The vice chairman then proposed "The Press," which was responded to briefly by Mr Cox of the *Signal*. Mr. C. spoke of the necessity of keeping up a thoroughly efficient Volunteer force in Canada, and in allusion to the victory won by the Goderich boys, said he was happy that they were able to show that although it was said to be going to the bad, they could turn out good and true men when they were required.

Sergt. Smith, in a very humerous speech, proposed the health of the Goderich Volunteers, to which the Stratford men cheered lustily.

Capt. Ross responded on behalf of his company. In allusion to a remark dropped by Mr. Cox, he said he feared it was the policy of the Government quietly to sweep away the Volunteer system, and mentioned several circumstances leading to that belief.

Lieut. Hays responded on behalf of the Rifles. He said his men had every reason to be satified with the result of the day's proceedings, and that all should be glad that they had been so harmonious. He also complained of the lack of governmental support under which the Volunteer system labored, which he feared, tended to its ultimate destruction.

Later in the evening Capt. Service mentioned the difference between Stratford and Goderich. His townsmen had suffered, as they thought, a slight on the occasion of the demonstration at the opening of the railway, and to take a rise out of Goderich, they came up on an excursion some time afterwards laden with baskets of provisions, &c. He had to say that he was heartily ashamed of it.—(Laughter and applause.)

After going through a number of volunteer toasts, such as "the ladies," "our host and hostess," &c., the company broke up about midnight.

The Estimates.

We have received the Estimates for the current year from the office of the Government Printer. The following is a summary:—

Total, $1,680,000. Spent out of vote of credit, $956,000; Civil Government $261,500; Administration of Justice, East, $170,000; West $37,000; Police, Quebec and Montreal, $22,000; Penitentiary and Reformatories, including buildings, $229,500; Prison Inspection, $11,000; Legislative, two Sessions, Council $63,000; Assembly $211,000; Printing, Binding and Distributing Laws, $39,000; Printing Civil Code; $10,000; Library, $10,000; Education,—Common Schools, $160,000; Superior, $50,000,—out of which Victoria and Queen's College gets $5,000 each, Regiopolis, $3,000, St. Michaels, $2,000, Trinity, $4,000, Bytown, $1,400, L'Assomption and Sandwich, $10,000, Grammar School Fund $36,000; additional grant $32,000; advance to Superior Education Fund, Lower Canada, to replace deficit, $30,000; salary, and contingencies of Department, East, $19,500; West, $13,500. Total $1,400,000; Observatory, $8,200; Medical School, $3,750; Literary and Scientific Institution, $2,030; Hospital and Charities, $241,000; Agricultural Boards, $8,000; Emigration, including Grosse Isle, $49,000; Pensions, $39,000; rents, &c., including two years Rideau Hall, $52,000; Road, &c., $141,700; Ocean and River Steam Service, $72,500; Lighthouse and Coast Service, $112,000; Culling Timber, $2,000, fisheries, $32,500; Miscellaneous, including $50,000 for removal to Ottawa, $136,500; Collector of Revenue, &c., Customs, $350,000; Excise, $10,000; Post-office $335,000; Railway Postal Service, $185,000; Public Works maintenance and repairs, $25,000; Collections, &c., $40,000; Surveys $50,000; Other Crown Land Department, $110,000.

GREAT LAND SALE.—By advertisements in to-day's *Signal* it will be seen that Mayor Glass, of London will offer for sale by auction on the 9th of Sept., 280 valuable lots in the flourishing town of St. Mary's. The town possesses excellent water privileges, is beautifully situated, and from the healthy progress made, offers inducements to persons seeking a permanent home. We hope the sale will prove an entire success.

STEALING MONEY.—On Monday a lad was tried before the Mayor, under the Juvenile Offenders Act, on a charge of stealing $4.30 from a fisherman. The boy, whose name is Donald Matheson, had spent a portion of the cash. By consent of prosecutor the prisoner was fined 20 cts. and costs, and was directed to make good the money stolen.

Very Latest from Europe

The City of Washington arrived out on the 58th. The cholera continues its ravages at Constantinople. The Great Eastern arrived safely at Cork on the 17th. It is hoped that the cable will be a success yet. There is a still further advance in Breadstuffs. Heavy rains have interfered with harvesting at home.

☞ Mr. William Campbell, Nursery-agent, of this town, has presented us with a Plum of the Washington variety, which measures 7¼ inches in circumference. It is truly a giant of its kind.

☞ In consequence of the press of other matter several articles have been deferred.

CRICKET.—On Friday last a match was played here between the Goderich and Clinton Clubs, the latter winning easily in one innings. We have not received the score yet.

TAR AND FEATHERS.—The Stratford Examiner says:—On Saturday evening last, a crowd of men and boys assembled in front of Tinker Campbell's "residence," and a deputation, with their faces blackened, entered the building, and carried the inmate up Huron street, stripped his shirt off and covered him with a coat of tar and feathers. They then mounted him on a rail and carried him, amidst the applause of a disorderly crowd, to the front of O'Higgins' store. After leaving their wretched burthen on the doorstep, the crowd amused themselves by smashing the windows and throwing stones and brick bats, some of which fell in dangerous proximity to some little children inside.

FIREMEN'S RIOT IN NEW YORK.—At an early hour on Sunday morning, a disgraceful riot occured between the New York engine companies. Pistols, knives, dirks, bludgeons, billies, knuckles, spanners, wrenches, trumpets, hooks, stones and miscellaneous missiles were freely used. Three men were fatally wounded, and one killed outright. The police finally dispersed the mob. The firemen of New York are continually quarreling.

THE RATE OF INTEREST.—Mr. Bourassa is determined to press the bill he brought forward last Session, limiting the rate of interest. A motion to give it a three months' hoist was rejected by a majority of 52 against 28. The bill thus goes for a second reading by a very large majority. And its provisions, which we think exceedingly reasonable, are likely to be adopted. Several prominent members of the House strongly advocated the measure, and its opponents abstained from their usual style of invective and ridicule.—The friends of the bill had greatly the advantage in the debate. Restricting the rate of interest within reasonable limits, will not affect healthy business transactions at all; its simple object is to restrain extortioners, to prevent a great deal of bankruptcy and a great deal of fraud.

JUVENILE DEPRAVITY.—About ten o'clock last night three boys, about 14 years of age, perambulated our streets in a state of intoxication, and uttering the most blasphemous language.

LESLIE GOING TO BAYFIELD.—Harry Leslie, the American Blondin, is announced to walk across the Bayfield River, on Friday, 8th Sept., on which occasion he will perform a number of feats, such as carrying a stove on the rope, cooking his dinner, &c., &c. The attractions are great and no doubt there will be a large attendance.

To the Editor of the HURON SIGNAL:

DEAR SIR,—In your issue of the 17th inst., there is a paragraph from Wawanosh giving an account of the burning of Mr. Thomas Agnew's barn, on the night of the 10th inst. Being one of that gentleman's neighbors who has the great honor of owning a thrashing machine for a number of years before him, and therefore I beg leave in your columns to enter my protest against that part of said paragraph that implicates me and others of the same craft in the neighborhood, for setting fire to his barns. From certain actions witnessed at the fire, if reports in circulation are to be credited, the origin of the fire should be traced in an entirely different direction from that indicated by your correspondent. By giving these few remarks an early insertion in your paper, you will confer a great favor on an innocent

THRESHER.

To the Editor of the HURON SIGNAL:

SIR,—Through the columns of your useful journal permit me to draw the attention of the conservators of the morality of the town and the administers of public justice to an evil which is now assuming gigantic proportions in our midst, threatening, erelong, to overrun and destroy all law and precedent.

Admitting that taverns are an evil in a place situated as Goderich is, a place where the whole of the legal and most of the municipal business for these two large Counties has to be transacted, it must at least be said that they are a necessary evil. It is also matter of congratulation to all classes of the community—temperance men as well as others—to know that in the opinion of strangers who visit the place either for pleasure or profit, the accommodation and management of our hotels, when compared with other towns of the same size, rank as a No. 1. In order to keep things in this state, Parliament and Municipal Councils have from time to time enacted laws for the guidance of the proprietors of houses of public entertainment, have imposed certain conditions and named certain requirements which must be complied with, and have determined that the license to keep a house of this kind can only be granted on all conditions being complied with and on the certificate of 30 ratepayers that such is necessary and as a sort of guarantee that the applicant is individually competent to keep a respectable house. To see that this is done, after license has been granted, an inspector is appointed whose duty it is to see that the rules laid down are strictly adhered to; and still more, each recipient of such license is called on to contribute to the revenue of the County by the payment of a sum varying according to location, but at all times a considerable item in the cost of keeping such a house of entertainment. Having thus purchased a right, the powers who grant it have considered it but fair that the possessors should be secured in the privileges intended to be conferred, and that others should be refrained from trespassing thereon. To this end laws have been enacted for the purpose of preventing grocers, who only pay a mere nominal sum for the right to sell in large quantities, and illicit retailers, who pay nothing and are no accommodation to the travelling community, from absorbing the business of respectable hotel-keepers; and fines have been imposed to follow in cases where the first of these two latter classes are convicted of allowing liquor to be purchased in retail quantities and drank on the premises; and with regard to the latter, where it is sold under any circumstance or in any quantity.

Were it necessary to add any argument to show the evil of the breach of these protective regulations, an evil which from either being winked at by the guardians of the morality of the town, is largely on the increase, it needs but to say, for everybody's experience goes to prove it, and everyone not pecuniarily interested in the traffic will admit that of the misery and crime growing out of the immoderate use of intoxicating liquor, three-fourths of it is traceable to the sale of the article in pints and quarts, yea, and even glasses, by licensed grocers and by those who are neither grocers or licensed, sellers who have no reputation to maintain, and whose motto is "Cheap and hasty," little trouble and large profits. By these latter, I boldly assert, there is more whiskey sold than by the landlord who is bound at all times to keep his house in a fit state for the comfortable reception of the wayfarer and his team, and who, from a lively competition, heavy license, and enormous rents and taxes for a favorite stand, in self-preservation, forces to use every endeavor to secure the comfort of his guests and thereby their patronage, in order that he may be able to make both ends meet when the collector or quarter day comes round.

I trust, Mr. Editor, that I have already said enough to enlist your sympathies on the side of right and justice, and feel confident that if you will but lend your aid in waking up the proper authorities from the deep lethargy in which they are at present enveloped, this crying evil will soon be put a stop to and many families be benefited thereby.

I remain, Sir, Yours, &c., &c.,

A RATEPAYER.

Provincial Parliament.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

QUEBEC, August 24.

Mr. M. C. Cameron presented a petition of seven hundred inhabitants of the township of Albion, praying that that township be separated from the county of Peel and attached to that of York.

This afternoon the following Bills were introduced, and read a first time:—

To authorize the admission of Henry Hart Coyne, as an attorney and solicitor in Upper Canada—M. Scatcherd.

To Incorporate the Bank of Lower Canada—Mr. Irvine.

To confirm certain side lines in the township of Tilbury East—Mr McKellar.

To enable the incumbents and church wardens of Trinity Church to dispose of certain lands—Mr. Walsh.

To incorporate the Northumberland Bank—Sol. Gen. Cockburn.

To incorporate the Rideau Club of Ottawa—Atty. Gen. Macdonald.

To authorize the mortgaging of certain property belonging to Christ Church, Ottawa, for the erection thereon of a parsonage house Mr. Morris.

To amend the charter of the Delery Gold Mining Company—Sol. Gen. Langevin.

To construct a railway from Fort Erie to Windsor—Mr. Walsh.

To enable aliens to transmit and take real property in this Province by descent.—Atty. Gen. Macdonald.

To extend and amend the Acts respecting the public works, and with regard to works necessary for the defence of the Province—Atty. Gen Macdonald.

To grant to W. D. B. James certain privileges connected with the invention of a new kind of paddle wheel—Mr. Irvine.

To incorporate the St. Roch's Savings' Bank of Montreal—Atty. Gen. Cartier.

To incorporate the Montreal Licensed Victuallers' Protection Society—Atty Gen. Cartier.

The following Bills were read a second time:

To amend the Act for the erection of the Municipality of Kingsey Falls—Mr. J. B. Dorion.

To facilitate the winding up of the estate of the late Grace Russell—Hon. J. S. Macdonald.

To grant certain powers to the Waterloo Mutual Fire Insurance Company—Mr. Bowman.

To enable Joseph Anctil and Augustus Fournier to be admitted to practice as Notaries in Lower Canada.—Mr. Joseph Dufresne.

The Bill to extend the time for the completion of the Brockville and Ottawa Railway Company, was read a third time and passed.

Hon. Mr. Macdougall brought down return to an address for documents and correspondence relative to the speech of Mr. Potter at Detroit.

Atty. Gen. Cartier moved the reception of the report of the Committee of the Whole on the Act respecting the Civil Code of Lower Canada.

A long debate ensued.

Hon. A. A. Dorion said this was one of the most important pieces of legislation brought before Parliament since the Union. The fact that the preparation of the Code had occupied six years, and that it was not yet completed, showed its importance, and he was not satisfied with the hurry with which it had been passed through committee. The committee had not even read the Code, and had merely considered the suggested amendments. He felt it his duty, therefore, to make some observations—which he did—on what he considered the deficiencies of the Code.

After recess,

Hon. Mr. Cartier replied at great length. The discussion occupied the whole sitting. The report finally was adopted. The third reading was ordered for Thursday next.

The House adjourned at 11 o'clock.

United States.

NEW YORK August 26.—The Tribune's despatch states that General Grant remarked recently that sufficient evidence had been adduced during the late conspiracy trial and since to convict Jeff. Davis of complicity in the assassination of President Lincoln, and that the fate of the conspirators settled that of Jeff.

The Herald's Washington despatch states that the Emperor Maximilian recently sent a letter of condolence on the death of Mr. Lincoln to President Johnston, but the letter was refused acceptance, on the ground that no such person as the Emperor of Mexico was known or recognized.

Panama dates of the 16th states that place is greatly excited by an expected invasion from Canoe. Business was paralyzed, military impressments were going on, and a forced loan was being collected from merchants. The rebellion in Peru still maintained strong headway.

The Brownsville Texas correspondent of the Herald dated 8th states that an ex Confederate officer boasted that Sterling Price had been made a Major-General of Maximilian's troops, and was empowered to raise a force of 30,000 men from the disbanded Confederate armies, also that several other Confederate Generals had been commissioned by Maximilian, and it was intended to have 100,000 Confederates in Maximilian's service within a year, to keep watch of Sheridan on the Rio Grande. Everything is quite on the American side of the river.

Our officers at Brownsville recently gave a banquet to the Emperor's officers, together with General Slaughter, and several other ex-Confederates.

It is almost the universal belief among American officers that they will be immediately ordered to march into Mexico.

It is reported that about a dozen of deserters from the American army and navy have been engaged in practical operations on the coast of Honduras; having murdered the crew of a small schooner, and subsequently capturing other vessels with it. They were last seen near Cuba with an English vessel in pursuit.

The steamer Emily C. Louder, from Callao via St. Thomas, with loss of propellor, arrived to day.

The Halifax, N. S., papers of the 21st are received. Some of the secession organs there are much exercised, and express great disgust at the fact of Mr. Ritchie, the only Unionist editor of that city, having been invited to receive the thanks of the loyal merchants of that metropolis in some substantial manner for his fearless upholing of the United States government during the past four years. The secessionists, in order to offset this movement, had extemporized a presentation supper to one Dr. Almon, who has been a leader of the Confederates in Halifax, and who made himself notoriously conspicuous in the steamship Chesapeak affair, and who also aided the escape of the pirates after they had them arrested. It will be remembered that the captain of the pirate Tallahassee publicly thanked Dr. Almon for assistance rendered that craft while there, after being ignored by the British admiral.

At two o'clock, p. m., gold was firmer. There is a scarcity of cash gold a slight speculation in favor of higher quotations The export of three quarters of a million of gold has given strength to the market.

The Alta Californian, of San Francisco, of the morning of the 3rd inst., has been received by private hand. It contains the following important intelligence; Crescent City, July 20, via Jacksonville, 2nd—The steamer Brother Jonathan struck a sunken rock off St. George's Point, eight or ten miles west from here, at 1:30 p. m. to-day All on board were lost except seventeen adults, including three children. Boats have gone to the rescue, but there are no hopes of saving more. Two boats swamped alongside of the ship, and three boats were left on board. The following are the names of those saved:—Jas. Patterson, 3rd officer, David Farrell, steerage steward, Hy. Miller, baker, Patrick Linn, fireman, Wm. Lowry, fireman, Wm. E. Shield, waiter, Mrs. Mary Ann Tweedie, Mrs. M. Beinhart and child, Mrs. Martha E. Wilder, Mrs. Martha Short and child, four colored seamen.

The Commercial's special says the President will probably order the release of Alex. H. Stephens. Gen. Lee will avail himself of the provisions of the recent order to leave the country.

Edward B. Ketchum was arrested yesterday p. m., at a house in West 20th street. He has not been out of the city. He had an interview with many of his friends and victims and with his father, and with the latter a reconciliation was affected. He was also visited by his wife at the station house. He has been about the city frequently during the past fortnight, but has avoided his former friends. He had about fifty thousand dollars when arrested. As yet, no complaint has been made against Ketchum. The creditors of Ketchum, Son & Co., will meet here next Monday, to hear a statement of the financial affairs of that firm. The assets are likely to reach to sixty cents on the dollar.

RECIPROCITY AND ANNEXATION VIEWED BY ENGLISH WRITERS.—The London Times of a late date has an article on the subjects suggested by the Detroit convention, endeavored to urge political considerations were put down by the sense of the meeting generally and the British delegates particularly. With regard to reciprocity, the Times goes fairely over the main points of the discussion and deems the result arrived at satisfactory. It compares the agricultural productions of the United States and Canada and concludes with these words:—"A country so rich in natural productions, and supplied with manufactured goods from Great Britain at a rate so much cheaper than America is supplied from New England, is not likely to be starved into submission even should America refuse to renew the reciprocity treaty.

The Frontier Volunteers.

The *Leader's* special telegram from Quebec says:—A debate which will deeply interest the volunteer force of the country took place in the House. The manner in which the force summoned to the frontier has been treated by the Militia Department was greatly complained of, especially by members connected with the volunteer service. Mr. John A. Macdonald's assertion, however, that if investigation should show that anything was promised to the men that has not been performed, redress would not be withheld, gave satisfaction to members, as it will, no doubt, to the volunteers. Their complaints will be duly considered, and reliance may be placed in the Attorney-General that he will not suffer injustice to be done to such a fine body of men as our Canadian volunteers,

A CLOSE SHAVE AND A HEAVY ROBBERY.—Yesterday forenoon a Mr David Cowan, a very respectable gentleman from the town of Uxbridge, complained at the City Hall Police Station of having been robbed of $231 in a barber's shop on East Market street, first door from King street, whilst his head was being shampooed. It appeared from his statement that after being shaved he consented to have his head shampooed; having first taken his coat, containing the money, off and laid it down upon a chair. The barber, a colored man named Holland, removed Mr Cowan to another chair, turning his back upon the coat, and telling him to shut his eyes to keep the soap from entering them! The shampooing operation was then performed, and so, it is alleged, was another which had the effect of relieving him of his money. The three colored men who were in the shop at the time, named respectively David Holland, Thos. Edwards, and Richard Jackson, were taken into custody by Constable Burrowes, on suspicion of having committed the robbery. No money, however, was found on their persons. They were brought before the Police Court and remanded.—[Toronto Leader, Aug. 16.

The Cholera—its flight Westward

We have dates from Gibraltar to the 6th of August.

Cholera appears gradually creeping westward. The towns on the east coast of Spain in their dread of the introduction of the epidemic, are imposing quarantine on each other.

The following are extracts from letters, dated Constantinople, July 27:

"During the cholera many people don't come to town any longer: many villages on the Bosphorus have been deserted. Our stock exchange (Consolide Khan) is open for only about two hours and a half daily. I don't remember ever seeing such a gloom and well may people fear, after the example of Cairo and Alexandria. At the Genoa Tower we have two provisional hospitals. Up to the present, I believe, we are on the increase, and although the number of attacks has only been five hundred odd per day, which with a population of more than one million, is not a very great number, yet as no one can tell when, and where it will finish, it is natural that the alarm should spread. The greatest number of deaths has been 180 per day, but of course this may be doubled in the course of a few hours, or it may be reduced as much. One peculiarity is that up to the present moment it has, with one or two exceptions, been exclusively confined to the poorer and indigent classes. It must be admitted in justice to this Government that it has spared no means to come to the assistance of the public. Money, provisions, shelter and other requisite or necessary have been furnished with a liberality which must call forth the praise of every honest person. Many, very many of the inhabitants are deserting the place altogether; and every steamer carries away great numbers of the Constantinople residents. The French steamer which left yesterday was so crowded that the agents were obliged to refuse tickets, although a very large boat.

July 31.—I am sorry to say that since my last the cholera has greatly increased, and I am afraid that during the last two or three days the cases must have attained the number of 500 odd daily, although, for some reason or other, the local papers do not give the number of attacks. The mortality is about 30 to 35 per cent, as near as I can learn, although some days it reaches 50.'

Respite of the Murderer Winsor.

From the London Star.

Those good people who have been looking forward for some time, with grim satisfaction, to the enjoyment of a sensation to-day, will suffer a great disappointment. Charlotte Winsor, the professional murderer of innocent infants, has been reprieved almost at the last moment. Everything had been prepared for the execution, which was fixed at the early hour of eight o'clock this morning. The condemned sermon had been preached; the scaffold had been constructed; the bolts had been adjusted; and the "drop," it is said, tested. Calcraft, the hangman, had been engaged; but even the flesh of so hard a man as a public executioner is not proof against the ills that it is proverbially heir to, and so reports says that Mr. Calcraft fell ill. It was indeed very doubtful whether or not he would be able to come at all to "perform his functions." Great, in consequence, was the consternation of the Acting Under She