Evening Mercury.

FRIDAY EVENING, FEB. 26, 1869.

MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS.

Mrs. Whelan is still staying at Starr's Hotel, Ottawa.

Weatherwise old stagers predict a cold and blustering March, and are not much comforted in the anticipation.

Mr. Macdonald, of Mitchell, died on Sunday, in consequence of mortification, commencing in his toe without known or apparent cause.

An inventor in Ohio has applied for a patent to prevent people snoring. It consists of an application of a clothes-pin to the nose of the sleeper.

It is a curious fact that, though the rain keeps thousands away from church on Sunday, it does not deter a single man from going to his business on Monday.

The fall of snow this winter in Canada shows an increase of 38.77 inches over the mean twenty years. The entire amount, if it had lain as it fell, would have been about ten feet.

In screwing nuts upon any part of machinery in cold weather, be careful not to heat them first with the hands, or they will contract after being screwed on tight, and become immovable afterwards.

A woman in Circleville, Ohio, swindled a grocer by having him pour coffee in a bottomless crock. Her apron received the coffee, and she left the crock while she "just stepped across the street, you know."

The enrolment of the militia is going on satisfactorily over the Dominion. It should be completed by the 28th inst., but it was commenced at too late a date to be finished by that time. Delay is the standing rule at Ottawa.

A husband in Flint, Mich., recently had his wife arrested on a charge of adultery. He testified that he had traded his wife with a neighbor for a pony, but the pony proved to be unsound, so the husband thought the bargain was not binding, and wanted his wife back.

When the tax on whiskey in the United States was $2 per gallon, it was smuggled from Canada to the States; but now, when the whiskey tax in the States is reduced to 37 cents Canadian currency, and our duty is 65 cents, and excise 30 cents per gallon, the scales are turned, and the smuggling is in the opposite direction.

SUDDEN DEATH IN GALT.—On Friday afternoon last, a farmer going into the shed of the North American Hotel, Galt, noticed a man named Hugh McColl standing near by in apparent distress. The blood was pouring out of his mouth, a blood-vessel having been ruptured, and before the farmer could reach him he had fallen to the ground, where he expired in a few seconds.

Mr. Michie, cashier of the Royal Canadian Bank, Toronto, is taking steps to prosecute Mr. W. Chewett for inducing him to mark Chewett's cheque for $500 "good," on his pledge that the money to meet it would be deposited in the Bank the same day. Mr. Chewett denies this, and says the money was refused and the bankruptcy of Mr. Chewett's firm (W. R. Brown & Co.) publicly declared.

The Waterloo County Council have passed a by-law "to authorise and provide for the appointment, payment and duties of an inspector, keeper and master of a House of Industry and Refuge, in said County," in accordance with the Act of the Parliament of the late Province of Canada. The house and lands are now ready for occupation, and will be put to their proper use in a short time.

THE SNOW STORM OF SUNDAY.—The snow storm of Sunday seems to have extended over a great portion of this continent. In Canada it reached from St. John to the extreme west end of the Province of Ontario. In the United States it extended from New York to the Rocky Mountains. It seems to have been the heaviest and most wide spread snow fall experienced on this continent for many years.

SUDDEN DEATH AT BRAMPTON.—A farmer, named James Pettigrew, residing in this vicinity, died suddenly, here on Wednesday evening. He was in town doing some business, and while jocularly bargaining with a clerk, in Mr. Atken's store, for an axe, he was suddenly seized with a fit of apoplexy; and, notwithstanding that medical assistance was promptly rendered, he died in about two hours.

NEWSPAPERS — The Philadelphia *Proof Sheet* for January shows that there are now published in the United States 5,244 journals, of which 542 are daily, 4,425 weekly, and 277 monthly. New York publishes the largest number, viz., 674; and Arizona the smallest number, viz., 2. Pennsylvania stands next to New York, and prints 528; and Massachusetts, 219. In the whole of Great Britain only 89 daily newspapers are published, of which 22 are printed in London; while in New York State there are 77 daily papers, and in Pennsylvania, 47. The dailies of Great Britain, however, are much larger, and better conducted.

CRAZY ROBINSON.—The Hamilton *Times* says that the Fenian Congressman, Robinson, has abandoned the hope of getting Congress to declare war against England, or support his Fenian balderdash, and proclaim Irish independence. He has, therefore, turned his attention to Cuba, and desires Congress to acknowledge the independence of that island. Ireland or Cuba—one or the other—or both. He don't care which. Rebellion must be supported wherever it occurs. Why did he not go for the independence of the South, and insist that Congress should acknowledge that independence? The man appears to be a natural fool. So though his constituents may have thought, they did not return him for the next Congress.

LOCAL ITEMS.

Citizens are reminded that a by-law in force compels them to remove the snow from the sidewalks before their stores and dwellings.

Accidents daily result from the incautious practice indulged in by boys of coasting on the public streets, and jumping on passing sleighs.

David Robinson, of Elma, caught his hand in the gearing of a straw cutter, on the 12th inst., and amputation of the thumb was found necessary.

Norval Hall, of Elma, was chopping in the woods, on the 15th inst., and received a severe blow from a falling limb of a tree. It fractured his cheek-bone and upper jaw.

A. Proctor has been appointed Postmaster, at Bosworth, in room of Mr. C. Draper, deceased. The appointment is a good one. The office has been removed to Mr. Proctor's store.

The Elmira *Maple Leaf* says that Dr. Griffith's readings, in Drayton, was an amusing entertainment, and that all who heard him hope that he will find it convenient to visit that locality again, when he may feel confident of having a crowded hall.

Some of our exchanges state that the Rev. J. K. Stimson, of Toronto, is trying to establish a joint stock company, with 600 shares, at $10 per share, for the purpose of establishing a religious weekly paper, in connection with the Church of England, to be published at Guelph.

A social tea meeting took place at Puslinch Plains on the afternoon of the 18th inst., when Miss E. Battersby was presented with a fruit basket and butter cooler of electro plate, as a token of the respect in which she is held by the choir and congregation of the church there—having been a member of the choir for the last four years.

ELORA BIBLE SOCIETY.—The twenty-fourth annual meeting of this Society was held in Knox's Church, Elora, on the evening of the 19th. The annual report, which showed flourishing condition of affairs, was read and adopted. The Rev. Mr. Brookman, agent of the Upper Canada Bible Society, was present and made a few remarks. The Rev. James Middlemiss was elected President of the Elora Branch Bible Society for the current year.

GUELPH MERCURY.—This vigorous and ably conducted daily and weekly journal, we are pleased to note, is meeting with the support which its merits and the enterprise of its publishers so richly deserve. The Press of the Western towns is a wide-awake and pushing institution, always a perfect thermometer of the business intelligence and social status of the people in its locality. The *Mercury* is a good example of the rule, and gives full assurance that Guelph is in the ascendancy. The publishers, we see, have just been compelled to introduce steam power into their establishment, in consequence of the increasing circulation of their journal.—*Hamilton Times.*

THE BURNETT TROUPE.—This troupe of comedians and musicians will give an entertainment in the Town Hall on Monday night, as will be seen by advertisement. In Toronto, Hamilton and wherever they have appeared they have had a most enthusiastic reception and their performances have given the greatest satisfaction. Of their performance in Hamilton the *Spectator* says:—One of the most unique entertainments that the lovers of amusements in this city have ever had an opportunity of witnessing, was given in the Mechanics Hall, last evening. The hall was filled to repletion, and the audience kept in a continued round of merriment. Mr. Alfred Burnett opened with a curious dissertation on poetry, in which he recited numerous choice extracts from the poets. Mr. James Taylor followed was received with deafening applause. Mr. Burnett, in "Simon Claude," assisted by Miss Nash as Mrs. Claude, was inimitable. Mr. Taylor next appeared as "Sarah Walker," followed by Simple Simon, one of the most extraordinary performances probably ever seen. Miss Nash recited the "Moneyless Man." Burnett's rapid changes—appearing in seven different characters—were truly marvellous. The whole concluded with Taylor's "scenes in a London Police Court." Mr. Sharpley performed a couple of solos on the concertina in an admirable manner. Every piece in the programme had an encore, but only one response was given. The entertainment was quite a novelty.

The old custom of cock-fighting, recently revived, is extending rapidly in Virginia and North Carolina. A grand Gallic tournament between the two States was recently held in Norfolk. A veteran Virginian publishes a card in which he shows that the sport is in its proving, and that eating the eggs of game chickens makes men plucky, pure, billous, and sensitive for their honor. At Windischgarsten, in Upper Austria, a number of houses have been discovered that formerly belonged to the Roman settlers, on the Middle Danube. Numerous household implements have been found, besides several coins ranging from Marcus, A.D. 161—180, to Licinius, A. D. 307, and one coin of the reign of Adrian, A.D. 119.

Agricultural Association.

The first meeting of the Agricultural Association of Ontario was held at Toronto on Wednesday. As several members had not arrived on that day the meeting adjourned till Thursday.

Hon. Mr. Skead, moved, seconded by Mr. Mills, of Hamilton, that Mr. Edwin Mallory be President for the ensuing year. The motion was carried on a division of 7 to 6. Mr. L. E. Shipley was elected Vice-President, Mr. Geo. Graham, of Brampton, was elected Treasurer at a salary of $400 per annum. It was resolved to keep the funds of the Association in the Bank of British North America.

A motion made by Mr. Cowan to appoint a new Secretary was lost after considerable discussion. It was agreed that the Treasurer should give four securities of $5,000 and himself in security for $10,000. On motion it was carried that Professor Croft be consulting chemist; that Andrew Smith be veterinary surgeon and referee; that James Fleming be seedsman; that W. A. Cooley be general superintendent of the exhibition; that J. E. Pell be superintendent of the arts and manufactures departments; that J. Flemming and W. H. Mills be superintendents of the grain, roots, and horticultural departments. The auditor's report was read, showing that there is a balance of $13,283.87 remaining in the Treasurer's (Mr. Denison's) hands, to be accounted for the Association.

A conversation ensued on the security given by Mr. Denison, in the course of which a communication was read by the Secretary from the Solicitor of the Board, stating that though a prior mortgage existed on Mr. Denison's property, the mortgage in possession of the Board was amply sufficient to cover all liabilities. On motion a by-law was enacted appointing the President, Mr. Christie, Mr. John Walton, Mr. J. C. Rykert and Mr. Cowan, to be an Executive Committee.

It was agreed that the annual Provincial Exhibition be held on the 20th, 21st, 22nd, 23rd and 24th of September.

A Serious Query.

In the *Spectator* we find the following query proposed by the celebrated Dean Swift. As there are probably hundreds of readers of the *Mercury* who have never seen it, we copy it for their benefit :

" Supposing the body of the earth were a great ball or mass of the finest sand, and that a single grain or particle of this sand should be annihilated every thousand years. Supposing then that you had it in your choice to be happy all the while this prodigious mass of sand was consuming by this slow method, until there was not a grain of it left, on condition you were to be miserable for ever after ; or supposing that you might be happy for ever after, on condition you would be miserable until the whole mass of sand were thus annihilated at the rate of one grain in a thousand years ; which of these two cases would you make your choice?"

" Life's path is rough," the old man said,
" I'm weary—I would that I were dead ;"
I asked what ailed him, and he faintly sighed,
In humbling accents he to me replied,
" It's not that I am feeble, old, forlorn—
T's a tight boot and an infernal CORN."

NOTE.—Thus who are similarly afflicted will please callat E. Harvey & Co's and get box of Briggs' Curative, and in a jiffey his or her Corns, with all its torments, will disappear. For sale by all druggists. C. H. Wright & Co., agent for British possessions. The summer is gone, and the autumn is past, Jolly old winter has come to it last ; The snow-flakes are falling quick thro' the air, Covering the ground with a mantle rare ; The ice King he lays on speedily in-bringing, The merry sleigh-bells are gaily ringing ; And whether it be by day, or whether by night, The house doth whisper, "'Tis winter, take care ;" And the night wind doth bellow "Beware! Beware!" But if you should suffer from asthma or cold, Toothache, lumbago, rheumatic pains bold, Coughs, bronchitis, or other fatality, Supposed to shorten our frail humanity, Don't stop a minute, but hurry instanter, And purchase a bottle of Briggs's Alleviator. For sale by E. Harvey & Co., and all druggists. C. H. Wright & Co., Hamilton, general agents for British possessions

GREAT CONDITION MEDICINE.—As a condition medicine for Horses " Darley's Condition Powders and Arabian Heave Remedy" has no equal, its effects in this respect are astonishing ; many horses that were supposed to be broken down and almost worthless, have by the use of a few packages been restored to a healthy and sound condition, all traces of the disease having been completely removed, and have been sold for from $50 to $75 more than they would previously have brought ; when you want a horse medicine get " Darley's Condition Powders and Arabian Heave Remedy," we know you will be perfectly satisfied with the result. Remember the name and see that the signature is Hurd & Co. is on each package. Northrop & Lyman, Newcastle, Ont., proprietors for Canada. Sold by all medicine dealers.

We would call the attention of our readers to an article of merit, which is advertised in our columns as being extensively used and with the best results, for restoring grey hair to its original color, and in case of baldness renewing the growth, called Hall's Vegetable Sicilian Hair Renewer. It is a medical preparation ; its action is radical, and by its use the glands which support the hair are nourished and strengthened. Heat, irritation and excessive perspiration of the scalp, which produce baldness, are soon cured by a few applications of this scientific compound, and it imparts to the hair a rich and glossy appearance. We have tried it, and speak from actual use.—*Pennsylvanian, Great Bend.*

CLOSE OF THE TEMPERANCE CONVENTION.—The Temperance Convention wound up their business yesterday—Dr. Oronhyatekha in the chair. It was resolved to offer a prize of $20 for the best tract of not more than twelve pages, showing the relation of the church to the temperance question, and the Rev. J. Richardson, D.D., Rev. Mr. Gregg, and T. M. Casey, Esq., of Napanee, were appointed a committee to adjudge the prize tracts. After passing several votes of thanks, the Convention adjourned until the first Tuesday in November—to meet again in Toronto.

A young man in Texas who outraged and shot a respectable married lady was identified by the piece of paper with which he had wadded his pistol. It fitted exactly a round hole in a copy of *The Galveston Bulletin*, which was found in his pocket. When pasted in the printed matter it could be read without the loss of a letter. The man was hanged by a mob.

BY TELEGRAPH

PER ATLANTIC CABLE.

Despatches to the Evening Mercury

LONDON, Feb. 25.—Mr. Bright made a speech at the banquet of the Associated Chambers of Commerce, in which he urged the importance and necessity of adopting the system of ocean penny postage.

In the House of Commons, this evening, an enquiry was made as to whether the usual legal investigations, before pardon, had been made in the cases of the cases of the Fenian convicts recently released from prison. Mr. Fortescue replied that what investigation the Government had made was quite sufficient, as these cases differed from ordinary commutations of sentence.

In reply to a question, Mr. Mansell said the negotiations for a settlement between the Hudson Bay Company and the Dominion of Canada were still pending, and it was undesirable to make any statement as to the prospect of building a telegraph line through the territories of the Company, to connect the Atlantic with the Pacific coast, until a complete adjustment was reached.

In reply to a request of Mr. Torrens for information, Mr. Otway stated that the Government has received no authentic advices of the rejection of the *Alabama* Convention by the United States, nor had it any ratification whatever in regard to the ratification of the naturalization protocol.

American Despatches

Louisville, Ky., Feb. 26.—A negro girl employed as nurse for the family of J. E. Mosely, being enraged at chastisements by Mrs. Mosely, revenged herself by causing the death of the two year old boy. She gave it a cup of boiling lye.

San Francisco, Feb. 26th.—Capitalists are talking of a new overland telegraph line.

Despatches from the White Pine Mining District report the mines exceedingly rich, and a large emigration is certain in the spring.

LOCAL AND MISCELLANEOUS.

Colby's Pills are regularly prescribed by all Physicians who use the formula.

Massachusetts has just let out a forty year old convict, who has spent twenty-one years of his life in prison.

A Kansas paper, sneering at the stupidity of a contemporary, says : " The best thing he has got off this week is a dirty shirt."

The lumberers have abandoned the getting out of square timber in the valley of the Ottawa because of the great depth of snow.

An old veteran, Mr. John Jury, who participated in the destruction of the Turkish fleet at Navarino, died at Hamilton last Friday.

Miss Maggie Ellwood, of Brockville, vanquished the Chicago champion, Miss Nellie Dunn, in a skating contest at Buffalo, on Monday.

Mr. G. S. Anderson, manager of the Royal Canadian Bank, Stratford, has resigned, and is about to commence business in Mitchell, as a broker.

Gen. Grant, in declining to ride with President Johnson during the inauguration ceremonies, is following the example of John Quincy Adams, who declined to ride with his successor, Andrew Jackson, on account of the Miss Eeton scandal—Jackson rode to the Capitol alone.

Mr. John Inglis, of the Township of Carrick, sold during the month of January of the present year, cattle and sheep to the value of $1,250. Mr. Inglis raised from his land the past season over 160 loads of turnips, all of which he fed to the cattle which he disposed of in January.

A STARTLING TRUTH. — Thousands die annually from neglected coughs and colds, which soon ripen into consumption, or other equally fatal diseases of the lungs : when by the timely use of a single bottle of *Dr. Wistar's Balsam of Wild Cherry* their lives could have been preserved to a green old age.

HAVE YOU TRIED IT ? — If not, don't delay another moment, but get a bottle of the "Canadian Pain Destroyer." It is far ahead of any other medicine, and was never known to fail. All aches and pains are immediately and permanently removed by it, and the price places it within the reach of all. Sold by all medicine dealers.

FATAL ACCIDENT.—A melancholy accident occurred in Harriston last week, resulting in the death of Mr. Daniel Wright, of that place. The deceased had been in the upper flat of Mr. Gordon's waggon shop late in the evening of Thursday last, when he fell down the outside stairs and lay for a length of time unobserved. He was taken to the house of his daughter, Mrs. Vee, where he lingered till Saturday night, when death put an end to his sufferings. His remains were followed to the grave by a large number of relations and acquaintance. He was one of the first settlers in the Town-ship, and although he was of unsteady habits for some time past, he will long be remembered by the old settlers of Minto for his many good and redeeming qualities.—*Mount Forest Examiner.*

HOW TO DO IT.—The members of the Victoria County Council have gone to work in earnest in the cause of emigration. They issued forms of inquiry to the different townships, and the result has been that the Standing Committee on Emigration have been able to report the fact that at least 825 persons will receive certain employment on their arrival in that county. Of these there are wanted 410 farm labourers ; 399 as female servants ; blacksmiths ; carpenters 35 ; bricklayers and stone-masons 27 ; shoemakers 14. It will be seen that the demand for labour is confined to farm workmen and certain trades ; and it is these only who will find that steady employment. As there is likely to be a large emigration from England this spring, it would be a good idea for other councils to follow the example of Victoria, and send the results of their enquiry to the Emigration Agents in the several cities, that the emigrants arrive they will have some idea of where to go to get work. The general cry throughout the country is want of farm labourers—and we were every county to do the same as Victoria the result would be satisfactory to both employer and employed.