"!!! Do you doubt my word, Miss Graham?"

"Which word, sir?"

"Exasperating girl!"—began Roland, but he door closing behind the retreating form of Mary Graham, cut his sentence in twain, and the latter half was uttered in the ear of empty space. It was:

"You yet shall rue the day that you defied my power, and despised my love."

CHAPTER X.

A few hours latter, Mr. Percy Crowninshield, lured by the beauty of the evening, turned from his direct road home, and being on foot, sauntered leisurely down Love Lane, marking the beauty of the autumn trees, and thinking of a day in the last season of painted leaves, when he and Rose Vivian had ridden in this very lane, and he had gathered the brightest of the gay foliage to weave a chaplet for her riding hat. He had called her his autumn queen, and added words of loving flattery, to which she listened with averted eyes and blushing cheeks, and though she reproved his forwardness, it was so gently done, that the reproof was only a provocation to fresh sin.

"She rides with Roland now," murmured the young man, bitterly, "and the flattery is as sweet, though the lips that utter it are changed. She has not Maud's constant heart; poor Maud, she deserves a better fate than to fix her affections upon a wither-lite like mine. Why should I try to rise—why should I struggle against the curse my father has laid upon me? An outcast he has named me—an outcast I feel myself to be."

A succession of passionate sobs smote upon the young man's ear, and seemed a fitting answer to his own gloomy murmurs. He started and looked around him. The sounds evidently proceeded from the other side of a thick clump of elder bushes, purple with thin clusters of ripe berries, beside which Percy had thrown himself some moments previously. No figure was discernible through the interlacing twigs and stalks, but the low sound of uncontrollable weeping continued, and the young gentleman stole softly round the clump of bushes to gain a sight of the mourner.

"A sister in despair," muttered he, as he caught a glimpse of a woman's dress, and hesitated whether to advance or retreat. Delicacy dictated the latter course, curiosity the former, and after a brief contest, delicacy conquered. Percy made a step backward without looking to see where he placed his foot, trod upon a dry branch and sent it with a great noise. The glimpse of a dress was hastily withdrawn, but the next instant a pale, startled face peeped out from the bush to see what was the matter.

Miss Graham!" exclaimed Percy, in astonishment.

"Mr. Crowninshield!—I didn't suppose—I am sure I had no wish," Mary stopped, utterly confused, and recognizing the impossibility of conveying the idea that to "run after" Mr. Percy Crowninshield, as Mrs. Bartell had once accused her of doing, was the action furthest from her intentions. Perhaps the young man had some vague consciousness of what was passing in her mind, for he said with gentle coldness:

"It is I, who am intruding upon you. Good evening."

He raised his hat and was going, but a second look at the dejected attitude and tear-stained face of the beautiful girl made him pause, and roused the chivalry of nature which in the gentleman of the nineteenth century replaces the knight-errantry of the fourteenth.

"You are in trouble, Miss Mary," said he, kindly, "Can I help you?"

"I thank you, sir," said the young girl, in a broken voice, and with averted face. "I thank you very much, but no one can help me."

"Let me at least see you safely home. It is almost sunset," suggested Percy, after a slight pause.

"Home! I have no home," cried Mary, wildly.

"Surely Mrs. Bartell is not unkind to you?" asked Percy, much shocked.

"She would not have been, if left to herself. At first, she was in her uncouth way a mother to me—or tried to be. I was contented and happy, though surrounded by a life so different from that in which I have been reared, but now all is changed. Mrs Bartell persecutes me with advice and warnings equally uncalled for and insulting—"

"Against what?" asked Percy, impulsively, as he remembered the good lady's innuendoes to himself on the morning of his brief call—"no matter, though," added he, quickly, as he perceived that Mary hesitated to reply—"I have no right to inquire. So the foolish woman plagues you with mistaken warnings. Does anything else annoy you?"

"Yes indeed," said Mary, suddenly turning toward him with flashing eyes, and trembling with indignation. "Something before which Mrs. Bartell's impertinence sinks into insignificance—"

"And that is?" asked Percy, gently.

"And that thing is—your brother, Mr. Crowninshield."

"Roland!"

"Yes sir. He comes there about every day, and sometimes by flattery, sometimes by lovemaking, sometimes by downright insolence, always contrives to annoy and insult me. He has been there this afternoon, and—I wont bear it any longer—I wont. I wont stay there—I wont see him again. Not if I starve here in the woods," cried the girl, passionately, through her angry sobs.

"It must be stopped. You shall be so annoyed no longer. I will see to it," said Percy, resolutely.

"No, I don't wish you to quarrel with your only brother for me," said Mary, more calmly. "I shall go away—where, I am sure I don't know, but I must find another home."

"But have you no relations?" inquired the young man, with a little hesitation, for he dreaded to seem intrusive. "Is there no one in whose protection I may place you? I would gladly seek your friends in any part of the country—"

"I have no friends—neither in this country nor in any other," said Mary Graham, dejectedly. "Nowhere short of heaven, have I a friend or protector."

"You have both in me, Miss Graham, if you will accept my services," cried Percy, enthusiastically, and longing to do battle that instant with all the world, in defence of his protege.

Mary smiled with a gleam of her native humor bursting through the sadness still clouding her countenance.

"I thank you, sir," said she, demurely. "But I fear your championship would do my cause more harm than good. Were you some forty years older—or were you a woman—"

"True," said Percy, in a little confusion. "I am not the best person, but—O, stay. I have it now—I know to whom you must go the very person—kind, sympathetic, cool headed, and warm-hearted—I mean Miss Merriton. Come to her this very moment, and she will tell you exactly what you ought to do, and help you follow out her advice into the bargain."

"But she is at your house," hesitated Mary.

"Exactly, but what of that?"

"The house of Mr. Roland Crowninshield?"

"O, you needn't see him.

"Still I had rather not—I don't know why, but I can't bring myself to go there. I might meet him, and not for worlds would I have him know that I had entered his doors."

"Well, then, Maud will come and see you, I dare say," suggested Percy.

"But how should we get rid of Mrs. Bartell? No, I will tell you the best place Miss Merriton is what you represent her, it would really be a favor for her to listen to my story, and give me some advice, and I should be very thankful to her for doing so, and don't you think she would meet me here in this lane to-morrow evening?

"In this lane? I dare say—it would perhaps be the very best place," said Percy, thoughtfully.

"That is settled then. I will be here at five o'clock. It is the time I usually take a walk, and I shall not be questioned or watched. Do you think it will be convenient for Miss Merriton?"

"I'm afraid not. Five is our dinner hour, and she would not be able to see you more than a few minutes at most."

"Say four then."

"Very well. Four. I shall tell her all about it the moment I get home."

"And I must go back to Mrs. Bartell's," said Mary, with a sigh. "If you had not suggested a prospect of relief, I believe I never could have returned."

"I am very sure Maud can help you," said Percy, enthusiastically. "Let me walk back to Mrs. Bartell's with you. It is growing dark."

"No, I am not afraid, and I had rather not be seen with you," said Mary, archly.

"Thank you for the compliment," returned Percy. "Well, I will strike across the fields and leave the road to you, Good-night."

"Good-night, sir."

CHAPTER XI

The next morning, as Zimri Waterman at an early hour was exercising his skill as groom upon Mahmoud's black coat, and at the same time perplexing his dull mind with possible motives for the visit of his grandmother to his master, he looked up and saw that gentleman himself advancing toward him, picking his way with dainty footsteps across the stable yard.

"What's to pay now, I wonder!" thought Zimri, glancing about him for grounds of possible fault-finding, but to his perfect astonishment he found himself saluted with—"Good morning, Zimri. Hard at work as usual. Upon my word, you have given Mahmoud a coat of satin. I never saw a horse better groomed."

"Why, thank'y, sir, I does my best to be sure," said the delighted groom. "But that hinimal have a remarkable fine skin, sir. I never see a hoss that showed for what was done by him, like that ere May mood, sir."

"He does indeed show that a good deal has been done by him, and here is a little present he makes you, Zimri," said the master, with a benevolent smile, as he tendered a piece of money to the groom who accepted it with great avidity, for the propensity toward money-getting, so perceptible in old Peggy, was also very plainly developed in her descendant.

"Did you see your grandmother yesterday, Zimri?" inquired his master, after a short pause, during which the groom had with silken cloth carefully removed a few specks of dust from the burnished coat of his charge, and run the comb once more through his fine and silken mane."

"I see her, sir, but she didn't come a near me," replied he, suddenly intermitting his employment and turning to look inquiringly into his master's face. "She never come a near me, though it's so long she's been a wanting to hev me come up there."

"Perhaps she didn't see you," suggested Mr. Crowninshield.

"Yes, she did, sir, for I was coming alone jest as she went up the steps—she and that ere yaller cat o'hern, and I was jest a goin' to speak, when she shook her hand at me, and marched right in. O'course, sir, I knew what was manners for me, too well to folly her in, I thought 'twas enough for one of the fam'ly to be a pushin' themselves where they wasn't wanted, 'thout another one comin' arter."

"O, but your grandmother was wanted, my good fellow," said Roland, with a reassuring smile. "I was extremely pleased to see her stories of the old times when she was nurse to my brother and myself. But what do you think I have promised her, Zimri?" continued the young gentleman, whose affability of manner had by this time driven the groom to that state of bewilderment, that he stood holding his idle brush and duster in one hand, and scratching his head with the other, while his eyes were fixed with a hapless stare upon the happy countenance before him.

"Donno, I'm sure," grasped Zimri.

"No, I suppose not. Well, my good lad, I have promised her that she shall have her grandson.'

"What me, sir?" asked the groom, more and more bewildered.

"You, Zimri."

"Well, but, sir—but then I'd be losing of my place, sir, and it's a main good place, and I aint a wanting no change, sir," said Zimri, suddenly made voluble by the idea now clearly presenting itself to his befogged mind, of threatened detriment to his own pockets.

"But what should you say to being rid of the work and still drawing the wages?" inquired his master, with an increase of benevolence in his manner, perfectly overwhelming.

"I should say 'twasnt no ways possible, sir," replied Zimri, stoutly, and with the positive air of one who feels his position to be thoroughly incontrovertible.

"But that is just what I have promised your grandmother to do for you, or rather for her," said Roland, coming gracefully to the climax of his beneficient mood. "For my object is to secure to her an efficient and suitable companion and assistant, without depriving you of the wages which at your time of life you are naturally anxious to be laying up as a provision for the future."

"Well, sir, to be sure! Well, now, Mr. Roland, sir! I vum, and I do declare to gracious, sir, I never did, no, nor no one never did see the beat o' that. A-goin' to lemme stay with granny and do for her, and a goin' to gimme wages jest as of I was a stayin' here and cleanin hosses all the time!"

"Yes, Zimri, that's just it," said Roland, unable to repress a smile, at the chaotic expression drifting over his servant's face.

"But aint there nothing I could be a doing for you, at the same time, sir? A gettin' beer stuff on this mounting, sir, or dryin' yarbs, or pickin' chesn'ts, or—"

"No, no, my good fellow, it shall be a real holiday," interposed the benevolent master. "Take good care of your grandmother, as good care as she once took of me, and I shall be satisfied. Come, saddle, Mahmoud, and put a saddle on the old gray, for yourself, and I will go up with you this morning, and see what is needed to make the old house comfortable. Your grandmother spoke of some repairs being necessary."

"Lord, sir, I can do them, as well as any job carpenter in Riverside or Hillcot 'ither, I mus' hev sumthin' to do, you know, 'sides smokin my pipe with granny, and I likes to carpenter tha'rate."

"Well, if you choose—it would be better on some accounts than to have a stranger about them," said Mr. Crowninshield, thoughtfully, adding as he turned away:—"There, put the saddles on, and bring the horses round. I shall be ready as soon as breakfast is over."

"Yis sir. I'll hev 'em ready, and get myself cleaned, too, by that time," said Zimri, with cheerful zeal, as he ran to put away his combs and brushes, and tell Peter the undergroom of the promotion awaiting him.

The morning meal passed with uncommon cheerfulness. Roland, in pursuance of the compromise into which he had entered with his conscience, exerted himself to the utmost to produce a favorable impression upon his two companions, and very few men have ever lived, who could draw at will upon so large a stock of fascinating power, as Roland Crowninshield. He reminded Percy in the most natural manner, of incident after incident of their boyhood, each one calculated to brighten and strengthen the bonds of brotherly sympathy and affection; he laid plans for the future, playful plans his companions supposed them, but really serious, in which Percy and he were to walk hand in hand through a life pleasant and profitable alike to each, though Maud could not but notice, that any allusion to the possible marriage of either brother, was carefully avoided. He requested Percy's opinion and advice in various matters appertaining to the management of the estate, and affected to be convinced by his brother's arguments, of the fallacy of a favorite metaphysical theory of his own.

To Miss Merriton he made himself agreeable in such a manner as showed that although he had never before addressed her in more than the merest commonplace, he had intuitively gauged her mind, and read her heart. Carefully avoiding the slightest flattery or compliment to herself, he insinuated admiring praise of Percy, into his jesting remarks upon his pretended defeat in the argument just alluded to, until the fond girl's cheek glowed, and her eyes grew humid as she turned them upon the man she so passionately loved.

(To be Continued.)

Huron Signal.

GODERICH, DEC. 12th, 1867

POLITICS IN MUNICIPAL AFFAIRS.

Ever since we had to do with journalism, we have deprecated the introduction of politics into municipal matters. We have advocated the claims of conservative mayors and reeves as earnestly as those of our own political persuasion, on the ground that they were the men best qualified to conduct municipal affairs in a spirit of honest integrity and with business like capacity. *Fitness for office* should be *always* the first consideration in the minds of the electors when they are looking about them for municipal representatives. The man in a township who possesses most municipal knowledge, who is unmistakably intelligent, and whose personal and public character will stand the severest test, is undoubtedly the best man to fill the reeveship, if he is willing to spend his time in the public service; and to turn such an one out of office because his politics are of a particular stamp, is an act of suicidal injustice, the injurious effects of which are not fully apparent until the affairs of the municipality have got into a hopeless jumble. It has been tried in Counties touching upon Huron. And with what result? Strife, envyings, bitterness, and ultimately incompetency and ignorance in office, and the inevitable waste of public money and confusion in public affairs. An old reeve clerk or collector, if he be a good, sound business man, is always preferable to a new officer, who in nine cases out of ten is compelled to blunder his way towards anything like efficiency. For example a change was made in the assessorship of Goderich township last year, and the result was the return of such a hopelessly jumbled up roll that neither clerk nor Council could make head or tail of it.—Hence we argue that an old servant should not be lightly dismissed, and that where a new one is to be elected, *fitness*, and that alone, should be the first and all-important requisite. We put it to the intelligent reader, be he tory or reformer, if we are not correct.

THE SEAFORTH FIRE.

The great fire in Seaforth on Friday morning last has left an ugly breach in the centre of the town, which, it is to be hoped, will be filled up with a better and more substantial class of buildings. The fire broke out in the rear of Mr Hannah's grocery—how, no one seems to know—about 4 o'clock in the morning. The wind at the time was blowing S. E. and pretty strongly. The building being a light frame ignited rapidly, so much so that ere assistance could be obtained it was a mass of flames. Mr. H. lost the bulk of his stock, which was insured for $1000. The flames soon spread southward to the general store of Mr. Rodgers. By this time the people of the village had come to the rescue, and manfully exerted themselves to save the goods out of the block of stores which, it was too evident, was doomed to destruction. A large quantity of Mr. Rodgers' goods was thus saved but in a damaged condition, the heat melting the snow and producing mud very soon. Mr. R. was insured for $2000. On the South, Mr. McDougall's general store was consumed, but not before a considerable quantity of goods had been rescued. He was insured, we are told, for $2300. Mr. Hickson's drug store came next, and as his goods were of a very breakable nature, his loss will be very heavy, notwithstanding an insurance of $2000. Mr. Hill's store followed; most of the goods saved, partly insured. Mr. Cull's buildings being furthest removed from the original fire, enabled him to save his express goods, stationery, and most of his printing material, of course in a very pi'd condition. His loss will be pretty well covered by insurance. Mr. Cardno's large brick block would have gone beyond doubt, had it not been for the heroic conduct of Mr. George Leighton, who stuck to the roof until he was fairly scorched. His conduct deserves more than a vote of thanks from the insurance people. The total loss by the fire is estimated at from $15,000 to $20,000. Of all places in the County, Seaforth wants a good fire engine and hook and ladder company. By the way a subscription for the latter was in circulation last week, to which some of those burned out would not subscribe a cent.

NO CRIME.—His Honor the Judge is likely to receive a pair of immaculate gloves to-day, if a man accused of the horrible crime of stealing rails is not caught. The officials complain that since Bruce was cut off their vocation is as good as gone.

THANKSGIVING.—In conformity with with a resolution of the Wesleyan Conference, appointing Thursday, 12th inst. as a day of Thanksgiving for the late bountiful harvest, service will be held in the Wesleyan church of this town on the evening of that day at 7.30, when the Rev. Mr. Poole will preach an appropriate sermon.

CHANGE OF TIME.—By a new arrangement trains now leave Goderich as follows: Mixed, 5 o'clock a. m.; Express, 10 a. m.; Mixed, 1.40 p. m.

HOLIDAY PRESENTS.—A large portion of our adv. space is taken up to-day by Mr. Moorhouse, whose stock of articles suitable for holiday presents is the largest and most valuable ever displayed in Goderich. In fact it would be no disgrace to Toronto or Montreal. Call and see it.

Salt in Clinton.

The well sunk by Mr. Ranceford, on his property near Clinton, for salt, has proved a complete success. The *New Era* says that the drilling after passing through some 70 feet of mineral belt, and salt penetrated a bed of pure salt twenty five feet in thickness. We have no reason to doubt the correctness of the statement and it requires but a small logical effort to prove, now, that in this locality is to be found the *richest salt region in the known world*. In fact the saline wealth thus revealed, throws the famous salt mines of Salzburg, which have been worked for centuries, completely into the shade, surpasses far the famous brine of Saginaw, and will cause Onondaga to hide its diminished head! How far the deposit extends is of course, still a matter of conjecture; but it is clear that if we do not become the salt of the American Continent—or a very large portion of it, it is not certainly the fault of that providence which has provided so largely for every necessity of mankind.

For the benefit of those who live at a distance from Goderich, we may state that Clinton is just twelve miles from this town, on the line of the Grand Trunk railway. Our contemporary of the *Era* must have worked himself up considerably all at once, on salt matters, for he says that "from expressions used by the *Signal* this will not be very palatable news" for that "it is shewn that the stratum of salt here is thicker than at Goderich, and of course more profitable to work."

We presume he refers to a paragraph in a recent issue of this paper stating that although it was reported that brine had been struck at Clinton, it remained to be seen whether a deposit of salt would follow, or words to that effect. We added what is a fact, namely, that brine of greater or less strength is found by boring sufficiently deep in any part of Canada. We did not say it was reported here that the brine struck was very impure—which we might have done, but preferred to await the result of deeper boring. Surely such a course was one of common-sense. If the *Era* wished to raise a hurrah about the matter, why did he not do it in his issue of the 28th, or by extra afterwards. As to the salt bed being thicker than ours here, that is simply not the case and easier made salt than ours could not be possible, without inventing some machine for hoisting the article from the regions below, already barreled, branded and on its way to market. Suppose the Clinton deposit *should* prove to be six inches or a foot deeper than ours! A *savan* proves by actual calculation that the salt under Goderich and vicinity, half way to Clinton will stand the manufactury operations of at least 1,999 years, and Clinton about 2,200 years—and as the two places, by that time will have merged into one great city, the Daily *Signal* will not need to carp at what was 2,200 years before the Clinton *New Era*!

Seriously, however, we have the riches, and it is the first duty of every lover of the interests of Huron to do all that lies in his power to find markets for it. Canada market enough! Thirty wells will supply Canada! We want the great West and North West open to us! That once accomplished, we, (we don't mean the editors) shall become great and wealthy.

RESPITED.—The County Attorney has received instructions to cause the execution of the man Hockridge to be delayed until the 30th inst., and, in the meantime, to make certain necessary investigations into the case.

☞ We have to inform a would-be patron in a neighboring village that we cannot and *will* not receive huge, uncouth advertisements, at nominal rates. Even with our old prices, based on the only sound commercial principle, such is our circulation that we have no difficulty in filling every inch of available advertising space in the *Signal*.

A NARROW ESCAPE.—The schooner *Tecumseth* had a very narrow escape of it on Friday last. She got near enough Goderich harbor to anchor and land a man on the North pier with a line, but when the anchor was weighed to work her in the line broke, and she drifted off in a N. W. direction, leaving the sailor ashore, of course. Capt. Bogie then endeavored to work the vessel up to windward so as to gain an offing, but from disability of his top-gearing, or some other cause, he was compelled to fill away for Kincardine, the harbor of which he entered about 2 p. m.—just before the fearful gale had burst upon the lake in all its fury. As the storm raged during Friday night, many a prayer was breathed from sympathetic hearts in town for the poor fellows who were, it was feared, exposed to a lee shore and such an awful hurricane.

A BEAR.—On Wednesday last, a large bear impelled by hunger or curiosity, strayed within about two miles of Goderich, on the N. G. Road. Mr. Fritsley, seeing the animal got his gun, gave chase, and was fortunate enough to get a shot which wounded bruin severely, but did not hinder him from getting off. Next day, hearing of such large game in the vicinity a party of hunters set out for the scene of action with dogs and rifles, but his bearship had fallen back on his line of retreat during the night and thus escaped inevitable destruction.

COAL VS WOOD.—The directors of the Goderich Salt Well, in view of the disposition on the part of farmers to run wood up to an exorbitant price, and having an opportunity of purchasing a large quantity of coal at a cheap rate, have determined to try the latter article at their works. The owners of cordwood will certainly consult their own interests by following the advice given in our last.

EXCELLENCE OF WORKMANSHIP.—If we have a hobby at all, it is that the job printing done at this office shall be as elegantly chaste in appearance and correct in taste as work done in the larger cities. To carry out this idea, we are determined to secure at once a large number of new styles of type, borders, &c., which with our already immense assortment will enable us to keep up with the rush of the times. With first-class paper, cards, inks, bronzes, new types, fast presses and skilled workmen, we feel assured that no country office in Canada can surpass us. If you have a nice piece of printing to do, just give us a trial. In ordinary handbill work, &c., *neatness and despatch* is the motto of our job-room.

☞ A boiler is on the way for Shephard, Dancy & Co's salt well, and is expected, together with a large quantity of boring tools, machinery, &c, in a very few days.

☞ The attempts to use coal oil as fuel in the States has failed.

☞ M. Thiesmaulit is going to move that the Governor's salary be reduced to 100,000.

☞ The N. Y. Herald proposes an international 3 cent postal system.

☞ It is said Mr. Gall has no idea of resigning his seat in the Commons.

☞ The French troops have been all withdrawn from Rome.

☞ There's talking for the three Railway privileges in London, Eng.

☞ Italy has ordered 30,000 of the celebrated Chassepot rifles.

☞ Telegrams from London on the 29th arrived in N. Y. at 11.25 of the 29th.

☞ H. Greely will not act as U. S. Minister at Vienna. An American refusing office! What next?

☞ Mr. Berry, Chemist, &c., Lucknow, advertises by poster, a large stock of Holiday presents &c.

☞ The last was to take its course upon Ethan Allen the murderer, on the 11th.

☞ F. B.—The matter will be attended to next week.

☞ On the 30th June 1866, the public debt of the U. S. was $2,163,453,811. A reduction of about $25,000,000 has been effected.

☞ The impeachment of Mr. Johnston has dropped to the ground. No more will be heard of it.

☞ A house was burned in Westminster on Saturday whence his wishes was burnt to death.

☞ The *Dundas Chronicle* has had enough of Confederation, and wants the Nova Scotia members to go home again.

☞ Reputed About was the name of the Parisian venders of chocolate as are not thieves or extortionists.

☞ Ireland is exporting oats to France. Sixteen vessels, which have lately left Cork for French ports, carrie 134,077 barrels of oats; 13 vessels from Waterford 16,065 barrels; and in all probability 100,000 barrels will be taken.

☞ The *Halifax Journal* hopes all its subscribers "will strain a point to pay up this month," as its editor "is deuced hard up to obtain supplies of paper, &c., for the winter."

☞ Dr. Stanley, in a recent dispatch to the British diplomatic agent at Washington, states that England will never consent to submit to a foreign power the adjudication of claims involving her right to recognize belligerents. He again offers to refer all claims for indemnity to the decision of a mixed commission.

THE POSTAL BILL FOR MONTREAL.—We are pleased to learn that the obstacle in the way of the new postal bill is to be modified. In the Senate on Friday, Hon. Mr. Campbell consented to the change so as to make payment of postage optional, that is, continuing the law in this respect which is at present in force in Canada. This will lessen much of the objection that has been made to the bill, and facilitate its passage through parliament.

LONDON, Dec. 6.—The *Times*, on an editorial on the correspondence in the Alabama controversy, says:—Lord Stanley is right in refusing to permit the foreign policy of England to be reviewed by any foreign power whatever. On all other points England will gladly meet the United States half way, as she is thoroughly tired of discussion.

☞ Several interesting local items have been crowded out of this issue.

☞ See the advert. of Mr J W Johnston's new photograph gallery.

☞ The subscription for Mr Platt's new steam engine are coming in famously.

☞ See the adv. of an extensive sale of Real Estate in Clinton.

☞ No markets from Seaforth by telegraph on account of the fire.

☞ Our market has been lively during the past few days. Beef, Pork, Mutton, Poultry coming in freely, but wheat is being held back for a rise.

☞ We hear that the Seaforth people contemplate the sinking of a salt well.

☞ The schooner Tecumseth endeavored to make Goderich harbor this morning, but failing in that, made for Kincardine.

☞ The Spray made her last trip for the season yesterday (5th) arriving in Goderich harbor in the evening. She will be put into winter quarters at once.

☞ We observe that the Intercolonial Railway Bill provides for the construction of the line almost on the very plan suggested by Mr. Whitehead on his canvassing tours.

☞ A fine fall of snow has given us fair sleighing, and business is reviving from the lethergy of the past few weeks.

NEW STORE.—In our rambles about town we have noticed that the new brick store on the corner of the Square and Hamilton st., is being fitted up for Mr. L. W. Watson, who is prepared to cram it with a very large and select stock of Dry Goods, Groceries, &c. He expects to be into it between Christmas and New Year, at least.

BARN UNROOFED.—The roof was blown off the new frame barn of James McDonogh, Esq., Smith's Hill, by the gale of Friday evening. Part of the roof fell upon the road, but happily no teams were passing at the time.

☞ The salt fever has spread to the Village of Ben Millar, the farmers in the neighborhood having, it is said, made up their minds to form a joint stock company to sink a well. We question whether a well at such a distance from the Lake or rail could be made to pay.

TOWN COUNCIL.

The Council met on Friday evening last—Present, the Mayor, Councillors Passmore, McKenzie, Smith, Clifford, Kay, McKay, Hays, Leonard and Seymour. The taxes of widows Canifon and Quick, were remitted, $2 each was granted to the 25 firemen in lieu of statute labor. Petition of Cemetery keeper for woodshed, referred. Pet. of Mr Herr in reference to back taxes was referred to Court of Revision; petition of B. Haldan for remission of alleged overcharge of taxes, referred; petition of Mr Mills do do. Communication of J H Gordon, sec'y of Northern Gravel Road Co, shewing the revenue of the road for 1867, to be $5000 and an expenditure of $9000 that it was their intention to instruct the lessee at Dunlop's bill gate to pay his rent to the treasurer of the town, and shortly to set aside one more gate for same purpose, until the claim due the town be fully paid. Moved by Mr Leonard seconded by Mr Hays, that the G R Co. be notified by the Town Clerk that they must pay up their indebtedness to the town at once, or the mortgage will be foreclosed forthwith. Market Committee reported recommending on a petition of the butchers, that a by-law be passed making the present market the only place in town at which it will be lawful to retail butcher's meat, laid over. Accts to be paid; D Ferguson $52, D Gordon $8.50, W C Chewett $1.50, M Moss $3.00, S Ball $10. Referred to finance committee, J McPherson $1 [illegible], W D Cox $35, Shephard & Strachan $12.55, W G Smith $2.25, T S Moorhouse $13.98, Jas Saunders repairs fire engine, &c. $9.75. The old returning officers were appointed by by-law, except in St Patrick's ward for which Mr Petland was appointed.—The Mayor is to take full charge of relief in future.

Goderich Ontario, Dec. 7th, 1867.

To the Editor of the Huron Signal.

The closing of shops at seven o'clock has been tried for the past two weeks and promises admirably. There are, however, some complaints that a few of our leading and most respectable merchants as well as one or two not so important, are evading the spirit of the agreement into which they entered whilst they observe the letter. That is to say, they put up their shutters at the hour named but leave their doors unlocked and allow their customers to go in and out with as much freedom as ever. This is not as it ought to be, and not as we hoped to find it, yet, we are glad to know that others of our merchants are in the habit of locking their doors whether customers are in or not, as soon as their shutters are put up, thus complying faithfully with the spirit as well as the letter of their agreement. We hope that those who have not thus promptly acted in the past, will in the future, if they have any desire to see the early closing movement a success, for, if they do not, those who have been honestly endeavoring to carry out the provisions of their agreement, certainly will not longer consider themselves bound.

Yours very truly,
A LOOKER ON.

A Boston journal calls attention to the fact that there is an emigration of Americans to Germany, as well as of Germans to this country. It says this is owing to the increasing cost of living in the United States, and that persons of fixed moderate incomes have discovered that living and education cost far less in German than in American cities, and they are settling in many of the continental towns. In Stuttgart the Americans outnumber the English residents.

A constable in Kentucky, in publishing some personal property for sale, put up a notice with the following clause: "I will expose to sail the 5 da 1866 my Jan iytle cone horse, or so much thareof, as ma nesary to satisfi sed gugment."

THINGS IN LONDON

From Our own Correspondent.

LONDON, Dec. 7th.

On Monday evening last the gallant sons and daughters of "Auld Scotia" gathered in the City Hall, and entertained a large number of our citizens to a festival and a tripping of the "light fantastic," in honor of Scotland's patron Saint—Saint Andrew. The hall was beautifully adorned with banners and streamers, emblematic of loyalty, and with a banner bearing a beaver and wreath of maple leaves in the centre, emblematic of Canada, was a handsome expression of the love and respect of the getters up of the feast for the land of their adoption. The cheering strains of the pipes, the feast, song and speeches kept the audience "happy and gay" until a late hour, when the hall was somewhat cleared and the giddy whirl of the "maxy dance" commenced, to cease only when the grey streaks of approaching day began to appear in the East.

Scores of ladies and gentlemen, when the weather is not too blustery, can be seen gliding over the ice at Blackfriar's bridge almost at any time of the day or evening.—The enterprising proprietors have made quite a large rink at the bridge this winter, and have placed the price of season tickets as low as 50c for adults and 25c for children. A house, for putting on and off skates in, in which a fire is kept constantly burning, has been erected close to the edge of the rink.

The Townsend family, which a few weeks ago gave some praiseworthy entertainments in Goderich, appeared at the Music Hall on Wednesday evening last, intending a short season of four nights, but the Misses Florence and Charlotte were suffering so severely from colds that they could not appear in their accustomed parts with credit to themselves, and the season was therefore postponed for a week. A good house greeted them on Wednesday, and the performance was considered very creditable.

A rifle-match between ten picked shots from the London Light Infantry, and ten from the Oxford Rifles, came off at the Cove ranges on Wednesday, and resulted in a victory for London by eight points. The day was cold, and the wind blew in fitful gusts now from one point and again from another, making it very difficult to shoot at long ranges. The firing, however, was fully as good as could have been expected.

Two officers of the 53rd regiment have been made to pay rather dearly for a little of their fun. On Friday morning, about 1 o'clock, while returning from the messroom of the 60th Rifles, they were singing and endeavoring in every way to make the night hideous for those who wanted to sleep, and being commanded to desist with unlawful proceedings by one of the police, attacked him and took from him his baton. Information having been laid, the case was brought before the Police Magistrate; they plead guilty, and were each fined $25.

We are to have a new Presbyterian Church, 100 x 60 feet, with a spire 186 feet high. The whole will be finished in the Gothic style, at an expense of $20,00 exclusive of gas-fitting and heating apparatus, and will accommodate 1,200 persons. It will be built of brick, and be completed by the 1st of May, 1868.

A high wind sprung up last evening and prevailed during the greater part of the night, leaving traces of its power in and around the city in the shape of levelled fences, torn roofs, and broken down signs, almost innumerable.

This afternoon, about two o'clock, a shocking accident occurred in Westminster, by which a woman named Leonard was burned to death. The supposition is that the clothing of the deceased had by some means taken fire, that she sought to reach the side door to obtain help, but fainted and fell to the floor, when the flames communicated to the building, completely destroying it. High Constable Cotes was made acquainted with the facts, and he at once undertook to notify a coroner and have a jury warned to investigate the matter.

LENTULUS.

Goderich Township.

SCHOOL EXAMINATION.—The annual examination of the School (No. 2 section) in the Township of Goderich took place on Wednesday last, 4th inst., and was conducted chiefly by Miss Campbell, the teacher. There was a very respectable attendance of visitors present on the occasion, including the Trustees, J Patton, J Sturdy and A Taylor, Esqs. The examination itself we may state that on the whole it was highly creditable both to the teacher and scholars, and proposing the questions, especially the higher classes, both in Grammar and Geography, as well as in Arithmetic, much tact and ability were displayed by Miss C. Prizes in books to the amount of about $13 were distributed to the successful competitors whose names we do not remember, and some of these books were of a very high order, and were indeed really valuable. The selection, in the whole, was a very excellent one, and well adapted to those for whom they are intended chiefly, the youth of our new Dominion. The examination closed about four o'clock, having lasted about seven hours, after which the Rev J Shaw briefly addressed those present, alluding in his remarks to the high state of efficiency to which the scholars had attained under the able, and successful, efforts of their teacher. Miss C. is about leaving the school of which she has been teacher for several years, and wherever her future lot in life may be cast, she will have, we believe, the best wishes of this section of the community.—COMM.

INTERESTING ITEMS.

☞ A Bridgeporter lost a finger playing base ball the other day.

☞ Houses and rooms are plentiful and rents low in Cincinnati.

☞ In the small town of Evansville, Indiana, there are thirty lawyers.

☞ A coal mine near South Carrolton, Ky., has been burning four months.

☞ One-third of the sugar consumed by the civilized world is made from the beet.

☞ The contagion of fashionable drunkenness is said to have broken out in Cincinnati among women of society.

☞ Two pretty woman had a duel in Kansas the other day, and one of them was shot dead. A lover was the cause.

☞ The Cincinnati dry goods merchants have been having a war of prices. Kid gloves went down to five cents a pair.

☞ The Opera House is the most profitable place of amusement in Chicago. Its receipts for September were $18,000.

☞ A very black man and a white woman wanted to get married in Providence the other day, but could n't find a clergyman to do it.

☞ Children are so artless!—Baker—"Another ha'penny, my dear; bread's up to-day." Girl—"Yes; but mother wants yesterday's bake."

☞ "Boy," said a facetious farmer to his son, "we had a pretty hard day's work yesterday, now let us have a game of chopping wood."

☞ It is said that some mothers in New York have grown so affectionate, that they give their children chloroform previous to whipping them.

☞ The manufacturer of a patent beer in Berlin, who is one of the most extensive advertisers in the world, pays a tax on $5,000,000 accumulated in a few years.

More than 60,000 people have emigrated during the last 10 years, from the small Grand Duchy of Mecklenburg, Germany, containing 500,000 inhabitants, to the United States.

MORE GOLD.—We have just been shown a splendid specimen of gold-bearing quartz by Mr. Duncan McKinnon, of Bobcaygeon, found about 40 miles north of Lindsay, and only 3 feet beneath the surface. It was tested by Mr. Gregory and Mr. Thickell, chemists and druggists of this town, who pronounced it exceedingly rich. The specimen, composed of white quartz and slate, weighed one ounce, and contains, at a moderate estimate, $3 worth of the precious metal.—*Lindsay Post.*

COUNTY COUNCIL.

(Continued from first page.)

2 o'clock, p. m.

The Council met pursuant to adjournment.

Report of the County Engineer upon the Gravel Roads, was received and referred to the Gravel Road committee.

Report of County Engineer upon the roads and bridges was read and referred to Road and Bridge committee.

Petition of David Williams was read and referred to the Finance com

Engineer's accounts were referred to Finance committee.

Account of John Thompson and others were read and referred to the Finance committee.

Moved by Mr Sproat, seconded by Mr Doig, That the sum of $19.00 be refunded to the municipality of Tuckersmith as reported by the committee appointed for that purpose in 1866, namely to provide some remuneration for the volunteers of the County—referred.

The Council then adjourned.

THURSDAY, Dec. 5.

The Council met pursuant to adjournment.

The minutes of yesterday were read and signed.

Petition of Thomas Knox was read and referred to Finance committee.

Report of Mr Farrow Local Superintendent, was referred to the School com.

Report of Rev Mr Barr, L. S., same deliveries.

By-Law No. 11, 1867, confirming a By-Law of the municipality of Stanley was read and passed.

A number of accounts were referred.

Moved by Mr Girvis, seconded by Mr Gaunt, That a grant of $30 be made to repair a bridge at Lucknow, damaged by the late fire, the hand-railing and one of the chords having been partly burned—carried.

The Council adjourned to meet at 3 o'clock.

3 o'clock, p. m.

The Council met pursuant to adjournment.

Petition of Wm Clark was referred to Finance committee.

Moved by Mr Messer, seconded by Mr Perkins, That the County Engineer be instructed to examine and put in proper state of repair the Morrisbank bridge, on the boundary line between Turnberry and Morris, as it is in a dangerous state to the travelling public—carried.

The Council then adjourned till nine o'clock to-morrow morning.

FRIDAY, 6th Dec.

The Council met pursuant to adjournment.

After routine,

Acc. of Jno. Kelly and others were referred.

Ac. of tp. of Hullett for work done under their commissioners was referred to the Finance com.

Letter from Mr. T. Logan offering to supply the gaol with blankets was read and referred.

Report of Inspector of Weights and measures was read and ordered to be filed.

Report of the Gaol Com. was read and adopted.

Report of the School Committee, Your Committee beg to report as follows:

No. 60.—with regard to the report of Thos. Farrow L S. of schools for Morris and East. Wawanosh, it is very satisfactory, but where he complains so much of small and low school houses and irregular attendance your com. would recommend that the L. S. give due notice of his visit, so that all the children, Trustees and parents might be present and then he could show them the benefits of larger school houses and more regular attendance of their children at school. By so doing we should soon see a