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WEEKLY EDITION.

W. T. COX, Editor and Proprietor.] "The Greatest Possible Good to the Greatest Possible Number."

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SONG:

I'm no the Queer Fallow I've been.

(Prompted by the Editor's suggestions.)

I'm no the queer fallow I've been
When I livit a bachelor's life,
For since I've been buckled to Jean
I hae comforts mai couthie and rife—
I've a rowthie bit hame o' my ain,
A cow and a bonnie kail yard;
Wi' fouth o' potatoes and grain,
And can leeve beyont hungers regard.
I'm no the queer fallow, &c.

O, the climate o' life is but cauld,
And scanty its blessings, I trow,
To a chiel that's unmarried and auld,
Mae matter what grists in his pow;
He's just a pair waif on the wave,
Adrift on adversity's main:
Till death bangs his book i' the grave,
He's the sport o' mishantes and pain.
I'm no the queer fallow, &c.

At times when I think on the past,
I can scarcely win owre wi' the shame,
How I squandert my earnins sae fast,
And had neither a spouse nor a hame;
How I stammert my way thro' the warl',
Uncar'd for by a' but myself;
See few will befrein' a puir carle
When they ken he is scant o' the pelf!
I'm no the queer fallow, &c.

When single my cliedin was slops,
And seenil it fitted me weel;
It was niffered for cheapness in shops,
Baith thriftless and shabby genteel.
Now ye see by the coat on my back,
And my breeks that are bodden and new,
That Jean has a hamely bit knack
O' makin' guid claithing o' woo'.
I'm no the queer fallow, &c.

It's no that I brag o' my dame,
But search thro' lik loop o' the lan'
And ye'll no fin' a biener bit heme,
Nor a kinder guid wife to her man!
Besides, we've a bonnie lass bairn
That I prize like the licht o' my e'e:
It gies strength tho' I'm toil'd and forfairn,
When she laughs and cries "Daddy," to me.
I'm no the queer fallow, &c.

It was proven langsyne i' the warl'—
There's nane dare dispute it ava—
(I carena tho' cynics may snarl)
That wedlock is Nature's prime law.
It's the pith and the standard o' man—
Society's haliest tie;
And he's under Society's ban
That feels nae as happy as I.
I'm no the queer fallow, &c.

WM. BANNATYNE.

GERMAN GAMBLING HELL.

It was painful beyond measure to watch the eager, anxious faces, as they leaned toward the centre of the table, to see whether their color would win. There appeared to be higher play going on than usual. A tall, pale man, with innumerable little blue paper rolls before him, and a pile of gold as well was staking heavily. He appeared to be winning, and he was. After he had drawn the gold toward him with the rake his hands grabbed the money. It was existence he was winning—it was life he was saving, it was disgrace he was escaping! What wonder, then, as he raked his golden gains, a laugh, but a harsh, unnatural, almost demoniacal laugh—was heard to proceed from him! What wonder his pale cheek flushed! What wonder his gray eye lightened up with brilliancy that was, with the wan, dogged face, painful to see! With his wonderful luck rose his courage; he tempted his good star. He put on stakes as high as the rules of the game admitted, and then that won to double again. It only wanted one more stroke like the last—once more his color to turn up, and he should break the bank! He gloated over the piles of gold and bank notes that were heaped up before him. The idea of another time winning and doubling all that wealth lent fire to his already excited imagination. Every eye that could see him was gazing at him, and those who could not were reaching over the shoulders of their neighbors to endeavor to catch if only a glimpse at him. He felt an hour ago he was a poor penniless devil. Now what was he? He could trample on all of them now, could defy those who had treated him with scorn and contempt; he felt now he was something human; no longer a beggar, living on the remains of what had once been his fortune, but which he had dwindled down to less than sufficient for an existence, by that fearful vice—gambling. Vice! It was the salvation of that poor miserable being sitting there. It was the blessed means of restoring to him his long lost happiness.—He now began to identify himself with the same being who, years ago, sat at the same table and lost the thousands he was now winning back again. It was just!—it was right—it was his own being returned to him. He asked the croupier could he put half of his enormous winnings at one stake? The croupier had to apply to one higher in authority than himself when anything over stepping the ordinary rules was demanded. The request was made and granted. They know well, do these people, what they are about, yet it was a risk. All present waited to see on what color the fortunate player would stake, and than nine out of ten chose the same. Then came a moment of interest; the cards were being dealt. Red he had staked on—so the first line would probably tell fate. A number of small cards were dealt, he gazed on them as if his eye would pierce through and through the pack as the man held them in his grasp. First came a four, then three, then seven, then six, and so on to thirty nine. Red must win—he was safe, he breathed freely. He moved his eyes from off the cards; he cared not for the following one; were not nine chances to one in his favor? A quiet, contemptuous expression took the place of the wild, glaring look he bore before—suddenly he started. Was it possible! Could it be! All that mass of gold, that heap of glittering coin, to be swept away from him at one stroke. Half a fortune! No—it could not be possible; he could not believe it. He could realize it doubled, but not losing it. Where were the cards? He must see them himself—himself count the pips. But it was—too true! Croupiers never make a mistake—never and, by one he lost; one chance against one—and he lost by one. A stifled groan was all that was heard. "Play gentlemen. May I stake the rest? All!" exclaimed the man in frantic despair. Of course he might, or doubled if he chose. His luck had turned—the table was safe. A murmur of "No, no!" sounded around him; then one or two kindly advices advising them to withdraw—to be satisfied with what he had. They might as well have told a drunkard to abstain from drinking, with the brandy bottle placed before him.—He listened to none; he never even heard him. All—all went on; every coin that lay by him, every bank note that was there, every farthing he possessed. "Gentlemen, the play is made." It was uttered in the same unvaried tone. What did it matter to the croupiers? They were neither ruined nor suddenly raised to wealth. All their business was to see those who won paid; those who lost, pay. They did not share the interest that at that moment was common to all; they were too well accustomed to such scenes. The cards were dealt out, the croupier counting the pips as he did so, and adding them up: Eight, eleven, sixteen, twenty-two, twenty-seven, thirty-three! Different exclamations were heard, for the pale faced man had staked on the blacks this time.—Black must win, black must draw more than thirty-three! All felt relieved; all felt as if there was hope; all were willing to lose their small stakes, that he, who had staked all his, might win; that his color might count more than theirs. Oh! there is some good in human nature. There was one poor girl, whose face was dark—dark as his; she too had staked, but heavily, and on the red; still she wished her neighbor to win; she thought, to judge by his face, she might support the reverse better than he could. "Five, nine, fourteen, twenty-four, thirty-three!" His hands were clenched and on the table, his head leaning forward, his mouth open, and his eyes nearly out of his head. It was a drawn game! The croupier gathered the cards up, and then threw them into a bowl, and taking up some fresh ones, with the utmost indifference, repeated the words: "Play your stakes, gentlemen." None moved their stakes. "Forfeit a half," exclaimed a voice near the pale-faced man, "and save at least the other." But he was deadened to human sounds. If he won now, he could only get back what he staked, for the drawn game gives half the stakes to the table. "Two, three, seven, fifteen, twenty-one, thirty-six!" Six, thirteen, sixteen, twenty-four, twenty-eight, twenty-nine, thirty-four! There was a horrible silence during the counting of the cards when the last number was named, none seemed quite aware what really was the result. An awful ghastly hue overspread the gambler's face. He saw, like one entranced, his gold, his life—his all—mercilessly swept away; and then—before a hand could stay him he drew a loaded pistol from his pocket, and putting the muzzle inside his mouth, drew the trigger, and his spirit returned to God who gave it. Life was extinct in a moment. His head, which was an awful spectacle, fell back, and his head swayed on one side, falling against his neighbor. It was a fearful sight. The scene that ensued can never be forgotten. Women shrieked and fainted; men covered their faces—they could not even bear to look on that terrific hideous corpse. Every one from all directions rushed to the spot from whence the report was heard; but for some minutes no one attempted to do anything; their senses seemed paralyzed. No attempt was even made to see if the wretched man still existed though that, perhaps, they knew to be utterly useless.—*English Paper.*

A Capital Anecdote.

A Wisconsin gentleman comes to the Drawer with a capital Western yarn:

I was sitting in Tom Mason's store the other day, and with several others was taking things as easy as possible, when G—— related the following story, which I thought too good to be lost.

'Several years ago the —th Regiment U. S. Regulars were quartered at A——, near Niagara Falls. Among the privates of the gallant regiment was B——, a tall, lank, red haired Vermonter, who was always in some scrape or other. One day he obtained leave to take a day's shooting on the Canada side. He went early in the morning, and hunted all day with very poor success. Late in the afternoon he was slowly wending his way home, ill pleased with his poor success, when he saw seated on a tree within easy shooting distance a large crow. To level his gun and fire was the impulse of a moment, and down tumbles the crow almost at his feet. Now it happened that the crow was a tame one, and a pet of General C——, who was one of the wealthiest landowners in Canada, and who owned the property on which B—— stood.—And it so happened that the General was an unseen witness of the death of his favourite. Enraged at its loss he determined to punish the offender in a manner that he would be likely to remember. So coming forward in a friendly manner, he nodded to B——, who saluted him in return.

'You've got a fine gun there,' said the General.

'Yaas,' said B——, handing it to the General, 'that's just the neatest double-barreled gun around these diggins.'

The General turned the gun round and examined it carefully, then putting the barrel that was still loaded at full cock to his shoulder, and pointing it at B——, said:

'You have wiltfully shot the greatest favorite I had, and now *you're got to eat it!*'

B—— expl'ined, and begged, and prayed, but to no purpose; the General was unmoved by his entreaties, and told him he must eat it or die. B—— once more turned his eyes piteously toward the General, but the cold, wicked eye glancing along the gun-barrel convinced him (as he afterward said) that there was fire in it. So with a groan he picked up the crow, and shutting his eyes commenced his disagreeable meal. He worried down three or four mouthfuls, and then stopped, unable to eat any more of the disgusting carcass; and the General, thinking he had gone far enough, told him that would do; and after advising him to be more careful in future what he shot, handed him his gun and told him he could go. As soon as B—— got his gun in his hand he turned fiercely upon the General, and said:

'It's my turn now! You eat the remainder of the crow.'

'In vain the the General stamped, and swore, and finally prayed to be let off. B—— was as firm as he himself had been a few minutes before. Nothing would satisfy the enraged soldier but that the General should eat the whole of what was left, and which he had to do before B—— let him off.

'The next day the General went to B——'s Colonel, and complained that he had been grossly insulted by one of his soldiers the day previously.

The Colonel inquired what one.

'Why,' said the General, 'he was a tall, lean, ill-favored fellow, with red hair.'

'Ha!' said the Colonel, 'I know him; he is always in some scrape. Orderly, bring B—— here immediately.'

In a few minutes the orderly returned, bringing B——, who was wondering what scrape he was in now.

'B——,' said the Colonel, 'do you know this gentleman?'

'What! me?' said B——, looking as amazed as possible.

'Yes,' said the Colonel; 'do you know him?'

'Yes, we are slightly acquainted,' said B—— (a happy thought striking him). '*We dined together yesterday!*'

The General could hold in no longer; but bursting into a hearty laugh he told the Col. to let him go, as he heartily forgave him.

AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS, IRELAND.—The register general of agricultural statistics in Ireland has just issued a return of the extent of land under flax in 1862 and 1863, compiled from the information obtained by the police enumerators. According to this table there is a considerable increase in the present year over the past in every county and province in Ireland. Ulster shows an increase of 60,856 acres; Munster, 909 acres; Leinster, of 1,278 acres; and Connaught, 979 acres. The total quantity of land under flax throughout the whole country was 150,072 acres in 1862 as against 214,902 in 1863, being a total increase of 64,022 acres for the present year.

Murderers Recognized by a Cat.

The following anecdote is taken from a report made by a physician at Lyons:—

"Many years ago I was called upon to make a report, respecting a murder, committed on the person of a woman named Penit. In complying with this summons, I, in company with a justice of the peace, repaired to the habitation of the deceased, where I found on the floor the body of a young woman extended lifeless and weltering in her own blood. A spaniel lay at her feet, licking them from time to time and uttering piteous moans.—On our appearance he rose up, but did not bark. He then came up to us and returned to his mistress. A large white cat also attracted my attention; he was mounted on the cornice of a cupboard, at the far end of the apartment, where he seemed to have taken refuge. He sat motionless; his eyes fixed on the corpse; his attitude and looks expressed horror and affright. After a slight examination I retired, promising to return the next morning with one of my brethren of the faculty. On returning, according to my promise, the first object which struck the eye of Dr. Martin, who accompanied me, was the same cat which I had before observed. He was in his former station, in the same posture but his looks had acquired so strong an expression of horror and rage as to inspire my colleague with a suspicion that the animal was mad. The room was filled with the officers of justice and the armed force; but neither the clattering of the soldiers' arms, nor the noise occasioned by the loud and animated conversation of the company could divert the attention of the cat, or produce any change in his menacing attitude. I was preparing to examine the body, when some persons who were suspected were brought into the room. As soon as the cat, whose motions I had watched, had observed these persons, his eyes glared with increased fury, his hair bristled up, he darted into the middle of the apartment, stopped for a moment, then went and lay down under the bed beside the spaniel, evidently sympathising with him in his indignation at the murder, and his faithful attachment to his mistress. These mute but alarming witnesses did not escape the attention of the men, whose countenances were disconcerted at the sight, and who now for the first time, during the examination, displayed fear. At the sight of the cat they became greatly alarmed, consequently the suspicion fixed upon them become confirmed and soon after their guilt was clearly established.—Thus did the cat bear witness to their identity, and further the ends of justice.

HEARTY ADVICE.—Dr. Dow, in his sermon of last week, gives the following very excellent advice to the young ladies of his flock:—The buxom, bright-eyed, rosy cheeked, full breasted, bouncing lass, who can darn a stocking, and trousers, make her own frocks, command a regiment of pots and kettles, feed the pigs, chop wood, milk cows, wrestle with boys, and be a lady in company withal, is just the sort of a girl for me, and for any worthy man, to marry. But you, ye pining, moaning, lolling, screwed up, wasp-waisted, putty-faced, consumption-mortgaged, music-murdering, novel devouring, daughters of Fashion and Idleness, you are no more fit for matrimony, than a pullet is to look after a family of fourteen chickens. The truth is my dear girls, you want, generally speaking, more liberty and less fashionable restraint; more leg exercise, and less sofa; more pudding and less pluck; more frankness, and less mock modesty; more breakfast, and less bustle. Loosen yourselves a little, enjoy more liberty and less restraint by fashion; breathe the pure air of freedom; and become something as lovely and beautiful as the God of nature designed.

DARING ACT OF A STATION-MASTER.—On Saturday last a coal train stopped at the Dinting station, on the Manchester, Sheffield, and Lincolnshire Railway, to pick up empty coal trucks for the Yorkshire collieries. On leaving his van neglected to screw down the brake, and directly afterwards the van and sixty empty waggons ran down the Garriesley incline at a fearful rate on the up line, and in the direction of Manchester. On nearing the Motram station the carriages were observed by Mr. Jackson, the clerk in charge, who at great risk to his life, jumped into the guard's van, when it and the waggons were dashing past at the rate of twenty miles an hour. He instantly applied the brake, and brought the train to a stand still a short distance below the Motram station. About half a mile nearer Machester, the runaway carriages would have met a goods train at a part of the line where the driver could not have seen their approach in time to prevent a collision.—*English Paper.*

THE BUDGET.

HON. MR. HOLTON'S FINANCIAL STATEMENT.

From the Globe's Telegraphic Report.

On motion of Mr. Holton, the House went into Committee of Supply—Mr. Joly in the chair.

Mr. Holton said he did not intend, until a more advanced stage of the session, to introduce any measure affecting the taxation of the country, and the few observations he has now to offer would be confined merely to explanations of the ordinary estimates of the current year, and to placing before the committee, as clearly as possible, the results of the current financial year. It was, no doubt, deeply to be regretted that so much delay had already taken place in providing, by means of augmented taxation, for the deficiency in the revenue of the country which for some years had embarrassed our finances, but it would be admitted that the responsibility for this delay did not in anyway attach to himself. During the interval before the reassembling of the House after the adjournment, his best efforts would be devoted to maturing a well-considered scheme for restoring the finances to a sound basis, and maintaining the credit of the country, which he did not hesitate to say was seriously imperilled at this moment, as would appear from the statement of facts he would lay before the House. The present estimates were substantially the same as those submitted by Mr. Howland in May last, with some reductions, and the introduction of some new items, rendered necessary by circumstances which had arisen since the prorogation of Parliament. He proceeded to explain these changes.—The reduction in the estimates for the Penitentiary, Reformatories and Prison Inspection, to the amount of $37,830, was due chiefly to the suspension of such works as could be dispensed with in consequence of the failure of the Supply Bill last session. He proceeded to explain that the increase in the estimates for legislation was due to the circumstance of two sessions being held this year. The estimate for public works and buildings was increased from $191,850 to $237,850, by the introduction of the following new items:—Repairing Kamouraska gaol, destroyed by fire, $8,000; for arbitration respecting boundary line between Upper and Lower Canada, $20,000; and Toronto gaol, $18,000. The last item arose in this way: Very important changes were made in the plan of Toronto gaol, at the instance of the prison inspectors, and it was urged, and he thought fairly, that inasmuch as those changes involved a very serious increase on the cost of the building, that the additional cost should be borne by the Upper Canada Building Fund.

Mr. John A. Macdonald—That was contrary to law.

Mr. Holton said he had confidence in the knowledge of law possessed by his hon. friend the Attorney General West, that he had not misled him in this matter. At all events, the Government had felt themselves obliged to recognise this claim. The estimate for roads and bridges was reduced $118,500. This arose chiefly from the grant to colonization roads, instead of $75,000 to each Province, being made $25,000 each, and the withdrawal of an item for opening up the Northwest.—The reduction in the grant for colonisation roads arose from the inability of the Government to proceed with the expenditure on them in consequence of the Supplies not being granted. This remark also applied to the opening up of communication with the Northwest, with which nothing could be done this year, but there had been no change of policy on that subject. After explaining the other changes in the present, as compared with the estimate of the spring, Mr. Holton proceeded to state the expenditure under the various heads of the year up to June, and estimated the expenditure for the last six months of the year, the total being $15,157,190. The receipts from Customs for the first half-year were $2,103,087, and the estimate for the whole year, five millions. His predecessor in the spring had estimated it at $5,400,000, proceeding on the faith of a large increase which had taken place in the first four months of the year, as compared with the corresponding period of the previous year; but the next two months had shown a very serious falling off, so much so that when he made his estimate for the year some time ago, he put it at $4,860,000, but the increased receipts in July and August warranted the estimate of five millions. The excise revenue was estimated $750,000; the post-office at $400,000; ocean postage, $150,000, being a debt due by the American Government for ocean postage, which he assumed would be paid and included among the assets of the year. The receipts from public works he estimated at $516,000; Provincial steamers $35,000; territorial $500,000; casual $15,000; in interest on investments, $197,000; Bank imposts $36,000; premium on India bonds $192,000; sinking fund realized $2,020,000; Municipal Loan Fund Upper and Lower Canada $300,000; Quebec fire loan, estimated receipts put at the old figure of $600, although it is hoped the energetic measures now being taken will produce much better results; Grand Trunk Railway $60,000; Great Western $24,000; Northern $14,600. He then gave other details of receipts, showing a gross total of $12,191,713, which after deducting issues and redemptions, $3,025,125, left a revenue proper of $9,016,588. The total estimated expenditure was $15,157,190, less redemptions $4,246,602; leaving the actual expenditure $10,911,038, for which, deducting the estimated net revenue of $9,016,588, a deficiency was shown of $1,894,510. From this might perhaps be deducted certain items as permanent and exceptional expenditure. Lake St. Peter $48,000; proportion militia expenditure for clothing, &c., which did not belong to the present year, $200,000; Ottawa buildings and permanent public works, $470,000; making the actual deficiency for 1863, $1,176,510; to which must be added, in fairness, the cost of realizing securities to pay our unfunded debt at a considerable depreciation, $300,000, making a total deficiency of $1,476,510. He proceeded to show the extent of the unfunded debt at this moment, which he said had reached a startling amount. The balance due to Glyn, Mills & Co. was $1,755,179; due to Baring Brothers, $1,588,991; total due to our financial agents, $3,343,170, besides the interest due in London, 1st January, $1,480,000, making the unfunded debt altogether $5,507,164. It was obvious that loans must be resorted to, and at an early moment, to meet the deficiency and to meet this unfunded debt, in order to bridge the interval of time which must elapse before any new measure of taxation, which might be adopted, would prove productive. At the same time, he wished to impress upon the House that he would not be in a position to borrow advantageously until they declared their fixed purpose to provide for our annual expenditure from this time forth, and at the earliest moment by taxation. (Hear, hear.) That was the only remedy he had to offer.—He had no occult scheme or magical plan to make money out of nothing, or to pay our debts except by the old-fashioned way of providing means by taxation for paying our debts. He referred then to the state of the public debt. He would not attempt to decide dogmatically between the different statements as to its amount; but from the statement he had got prepared by the able and competent Auditor General, Mr. Langton, he found the net interest on the debt was $3,553,353, which, capitalized at five per cent, amounted to seventy millions. This for practical purposes might be assumed as the amount of our debt, without going into the question of what value might be put on our assets. He proceeded to give a statement showing how, for a number of years back, we had incurred debt to pay our ordinary expenses. In six years, from 1857 to 1862 inclusive, the total excess of expenditure over income was $12,248,413, an average annual increase upon our debt of two millions. It was now, then, our duty to consider how we were to increase our annual revenue by the sum of at least two millions, in order that the income might be made equal to the expenditure. Our credit could not possibly stand if we continued running in debt systematically two millions per annum. It was not the extent of our debt which alarmed him, for he had great faith in the resources of the country, and in its ability to bear even a larger debt than we now had.—It was not so much the amount of our debt that affected our credit and diminished the value of our securities. It was that we did not like manfully to meet our liabilities, but in past years had borrowed to pay interest rather than bear taxation necessary for the purpose. He proceeded to explain why it was not to be expected that under the present circumstances, so soon after accepting office, he should be prepared with a general scheme of a new taxation adequate to restore finances to a sound basis. He referred to the case of Sir Robert Peel, who took office in 1841, with a large majority, for the very purpose of restoring the then shattered finances of the empire, but who, with all his experience, did not actually enter on the task of grappling with the financial difficulties until the ensuing regular session, that of 1842. He referred also to several cases in which new Finance Ministers in this country had taken a similar course. If he and his colleagues continued to enjoy the confidence of the House, it would be his duty at the earliest moment to submit a measure of taxation adequate to meet the difficulties of the situation. He then glanced at the principles by which he meant to be guided in imposing the new taxation. In the first place, he thought a considerable addition to our revenue might be obtained from our public works. He believed that the policy adopted two or three years ago of freeing our canals from tolls was a mistaken policy. He thought we should look to our public works represented, as they did, a very large proportion of our public debt, as a legitimate source of revenue. He would go no further, and say that a sound system of finance would look to the expansion and enlargement of those public works for revenue purposes.—He believed that one of the first results of the restoration of our public credit should be the resumption of the project of enlarging the Welland and St Lawrence canals. He thought, also, that we might with advantage localize some of the charges for local purposes now borne by the public exchequer. As regarded the Custom's revenue, he thought we should assimilate our commercial policy so far as we consistantly could, with regard to the industrial interests of the country, with that which had been so eminently successful in the mother country—which had regenerated England, and given her a new lease of the empire. He thought that, besides other benefits, this would improve our standing in the public opinion of the empire, which was a matter of very considerable importance and he thought it the best policy not only for England but for other countries. Mr. Holton, in conclusion, adverted to the reductions in the public expenditure which the Government had been striving to make. The Crown Lands Department this year would show, as compared with with 1861, a reduction of $100,000. In his own department there was a large reduction. He (Mr. Holton) thought the whole reduction of the public expenditure, from changes actually made or in progress, including the saving effected on the ocean steam service, would reach certainly half a million, an item worthy of consideration in seeing how the deficiency of our revenue was to be made up. He concluded by declaring that so strong was his sense of the grave embarrassments in which the finances of the country were placed, that even should the House withdraw their confidence from him and his colleagues he should consider it his duty, in retiring from office, to do all in his power to strengthen the hands of whoever might be called on to discharge the functions now entrusted to him.—Mr. Holton resumed his seat amidst loud cheers.

NEWS ITEMS.

☞ A vessel called the *Etta*, sailing with a British registrar from Nassau, was seized at Jersey City last week by the Federal authorities, on the allegation that she was formerly the privateer *Retribution*, and her transfer to neutral owners simulated. The *Etta* was laden with pine apples.

☞ A curious discovery is said to have been made as to the influence of iron ore on vegetables. On chalky soils, the sere and blanched appearance of vegetation may be removed by an application of sulphate of iron in solution. Wonderful effects were produced by it in the cultivation of clover.

☞ A Toronto correspondent of the Hamilton *Times* writes, it is strongly asserted in that city when Messrs. John McDonald and Smith, members for the constituency, are so degraded with the Ministry for their conduct on the seat of Government question, that they have agreed to go into opposition.

☞ A few evenings since the car next to the locomotive of the freight train going east on the Grand Trunk Railroad took fire, evidently from the locomotive, and was entirely destroyed together with its contents, which consisted of wool. The accident occurred about four miles east of the Smith Creek Station.

☞ The Toronto *Globe* warns parents of making their sons doctors and lawyers, as they will be far too numerous already. It says, "Could the city of Toronto alone boast half a-dozen times as large a population as she now has, there are enough legal and medical gentleman within her bounds to supply all her wants."

☞ A London man has been walking the water. He puts an airtight vessel on his breast and another on his back—both worn under his clothes. He had also a sort of small paddle on each heel fixed so that when his foot moved forward the paddle moved sideways, and when the paddle was subject to a lateral pressure it offered a flat surface to the water. This arrangement enabled him to walk with ease.

Ironclads on the Mersey.

(*From the London Times, August 31.*)

Though it is well known that several ironclads are in course of construction in various parts of the kingdom for foreign Governments, and though one has already sailed for Russia and another for Denmark without occasioning surprise, the public suspect that any vessel of war built on the Mersey must be intended for the Confederate Government. For a considerable time past mysterious assertions have been circulated respecting two ironclads building in Messrs. Laird's yards, and the Federal spies have never lost sight of them. A few days ago it was currently reported and believed that one of these vessels had slipped away to sea, candidatively to join company with the Confederate steamer "Florida" off the Irish coast. That such was not the case a visit to Messrs. Laird's yard made evident. There at present lie the two suspected vessels side by side, with the French flag floating over the one nearest completion. Messrs. Laird make no mystery about *El Touston* and *El Mounassir*, as the ships are named. They are undoubtedly built on French account, and it is understood that the French Vice Consul has given the Collector of Customs satisfactory explanations respecting them. *El Touston*, which was launched some time ago, will be ready for a trial trip in a month or six weeks. *El Mounassir* was only launched on Saturday, but already a portion of her machinery is on board. Perhaps there are not two more formidable frigates afloat. They are 230ft. over all, 42ft. beam, with 19ft. 6in. depth of hold. Tonnage 1,850 o. m.; horse power 350. They will combine speed with good seagoing qualities. They are flat-bottomed, with exceedingly fine ends, and will sit low in the water. Their draught when loaded will be about fifteen feet; estimated speed, 14 knots. The stem is so formed that the vessel may be used as a ram, and the stern which overhangs affords protection to the screw and rudder from shot or collisions. The rig is that of a barque, the masts, which are telescopic, and the lower-yards, being of iron. The armour-plating on the sides of the vessel is 4½ inches thick amidships, and are rather less at the ends. The plates, the joing together of which is imperceptible, are fitted into a teak backing of great strength. The deck is of 5in teak, protected with iron. The bulwarks let down in case of action in order to allow the turret guns to fire over them. They have two cylindrical turrets on Captain Cole's principle—one before and the other abaft the engine-room, heavily plated. These turrets are made for two guns each. The pilot-house is formed of teak and iron. At either end of the vessel are raised decks, which afford excellent accomodation for the officers and crew. In the captain's cabin provision is made for two heavy stern guns, and heavy guns can be trained from the forecastle deck. These vessels have capacity for 300 tons of coal. All the machinery is below the water line. Several experienced naval officers who have inspected the vessels have expressed opinions most gratifying to their designers.

A Plea for an Excursion to Goderich.

To the Editor of the Free Press.

SIR,—During the summer, excursion trains have been run to Detroit, Hamilton, the Falls and Toronto; even Sarnia has its annual visitation. Why is it, then, that Goderich has been passed by? None of the above places can surpass, and but one, "The Falls," rival it in the beautiful character of its scenery. Whenever the opportunity of a cheap trip to it has been offered, many hundreds of our inhabitants have flocked thither, and those, of whom I am one, who have once inhaled the gloriously invigorating breezes of Lake Huron, long for the chance again.—Summer is now well nigh spent, and after this month has flitted, one year must elapse before we can hope for another excursion; pray, then, Mr. Editor, use your influence with the officers of the Grand Trunk Railway, that the numbers of us who have been anxiously scanning your columns for the advertisement of "a cheap excursion trip to the shores of Lake Huron," may not be disappointed—a word from you will go far to carry our point, and I am confident that the citizens in numbers would avail themselves of the trip, and the railway, too, reap a handsome remuneration.

Yours, etc.,
A LOVER OF LAKE HURON.

London, Sept. 14, 1863.

[All classes of readers will cordially endorse the sentiments contained in the above communication, and if the Grand Trunk authorities are not prevailed on to run an excursion train to Goderich, after reading it, no appeal from us will induce them to do so.]—*London Free Press.*

Huron Signal.

GODERICH, C. W., SEPT. 18, 1863.

THE ANNUAL EXHIBITION OF THE CO. HURON AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.

THE largest and best show ever held in connection with the above society was commenced in this town yesterday, (Thursday, 17th inst.) The day was a beautiful one, and the attendance fair, although not half as large as it should have been.—It is a lamentable fact that the great mass of our farmers are far more likely to flock to a circus or other demoralizing exhibition, than to encourage by their presence a show which is intimately connected with the elevation and advancement of their calling. The horticultural department of the Co. Show, alone, to which we have devoted much of our space elsewhere, was well worth travelling twenty miles to see. This exhibition should be made a *County Show* in the strictest sense of the word, and in order to carry it out properly the competition should embrace *all* parts of the County. In no other way can the visitor from a distance properly appreciate the vast agricultural resources of Huron.

In laying before our readers a comprehensive report of the exhibition we wish to avoid all exaggeration, and to do justice impartially to every department as far as possible, although we do not expect to be able to dwell as long as we might desire upon particular branches.

The judges of the out-door show began their labors about 12 o'clock, the animals exhibited being introduced in the following order:

HORSES.

Mares and foals, 9 entries; four or five were fine animals.

Two years' old Fillys. Nine entries. With one or two exceptions they were large serviceable animals. The year old colts, although not the largest we have seen, were very good. Mr. Jacob Seegmiller showed several of the best. There were six two-year old geldings shown, mostly strong, active beasts.

The working horses attracted considerable attention, but we would not like to assert that they represented the best in the County. Taken as a whole, the show of horses was far in advance of former years.

CATTLE.

Of Milch Cows there were a number of good-looking animals shown; the working oxen and the young cattle were very good indeed.

SHEEP AND SWINE.

There were nine or ten pens of sheep exhibited, each pen containing from two to ten. Some few of the animals were of inferior quality, but the majority would compare favorably with any we have seen in this section of the country. The entries of swine were not numerous, but several fine breeding animals were shown.

IMPLEMENTS.

The show of Agricultural Implements on the Market Square was much better than on former occasions.

The greatest variety was from the first class establishment of Messrs. R Runciman & Co. This firm deserves the highest praise for the enterprising spirit it has shown in introducing amongst the farmers of Huron and Bruce the most valuable of the labor-saving implements of the day.—On this occasion they exhibited a separator and horse power, 4 Cultivators, 3 Iron ploughs and two wooden, the Mahaffey plough, in particular, was very much admired, as also was an improved land roller. All these implements have been manufactured by first-rate workmen, and the material used is of the best.

Mr. J. Pasmore, of Goderich, shewed two fine lumber Wagons, an elegant Buggy, besides several Agricultural Implements, such as Harrows, improved Turnip Cutters, &c. The great recommendation of Mr. P.'s manufacture, in our opinion, is that no effort was made at *overloading* the several articles with varnish, iron, &c. The best implements is that which will, under ordinary circumstances do the best work and stand the greatest amount of wear and tear. From the foundry of Messrs. Glasgow & Co., of Clinton, there was a capital Reaping Machine.

Mr. McTavish, of Clinton, shewed a good Iron Plough, as also did Mr. Geo Irwin of Bayfield. Mr. Clarke, of Goderich, showed a good serviceable Wooden Plough.

Mr. Couvelier exhibited the remarkable washing powers of his excellent Washing Machine.

Messrs. McTaggart, of Clinton, showed three Fanning Mills of an improved pattern, and Mr. H Dodd one of his manufacture. Some misunderstanding arose with regard to a remark said to have been dropped by the judges creating an unseemly altercation, in the midst of which, Mr. McTaggart loaded up his Mills, and indignantly ordered them off the ground.—He complained that the judges had refused to allow him to compete because his machine was not such as he ordinarily gave the public, several improvements having been recently added. If the assertion was correct, we think the judges were wrong—although, of course, their desire was to act with perfect impartiality—but if what they did say was distorted, we think Mr. McTaggart was too hasty in removing his Mills. We have no doubt both his and Dodds' are excellent of their kind.

THE FLORAL HALL.

Having taken a passing glance at the outside show, we turn with pleasure towards the Horticultural and kindred departments, as displayed in the spacious Drill-room on Nelson street. The task of fitting up and ornamenting the room was imposed upon Mr. N. T. Custead of the Goderich Nursery, who took hold of the job so energetically that in a couple of days he contrived to convert the usually plain-looking place into a "Floral Hall."—These words were placed over the door outside in large shapely letters of evergreen. Inside, the windows were draped with evergreens, the overhanging beams hidden in long folds of colored cloth—red, blue and white. In the intervals were placed small British flags. From one or two places hung the stars and stripes, as a token, perhaps, that henceforth we will dare to vie with Brother Jonathan in matters horticultural. The tables for the display of fruits, vegetables, flowers, &c., were four in number; three running the whole length of the building, and one across the upper end. When everything had been arranged in its proper place, the Hall presented the most beautiful sight of the kind ever witnessed in these Counties and nothing could be better calculated to enable the beholder to realize the vast progress made since the time—and it is but a few years ago—when the appreciative judges were able to devour all the fruit shown. The show of fruit was superb, better we think than last year; certainly there was a far greater display of it. One whole table 80 feet long was devoted to the larger fruits, from apples down to plums. And that table was enough to kindle the admiration of an epicure, while it delighted the heart of the most enthusiastic horticulturist. We have not the slightest hesitation in asserting that the show of fruits would compare favorably with the products of the richest and most favored counties in the Province, and that, in quality they *cannot* be surpassed at the approaching Exhibition. The fact is now firmly established that this is destined to be a great fruit country, in addition to its splendid resources in other respects. Apples, peaches, and plums, may be brought to the utmost perfection on the banks of Lake Huron, and we would urge upon our farmers the necessity of introducing the very best varieties, instead of the miserable sorts to be found in the older orchards. It is obvious that the prize-taking fruit has been grown upon newly introduced trees.

There were 20 entries of Apples, embracing 160 varieties, and we believe there could not be found in the whole a dozen indifferent samples. We might particularize as very fine, the Keswick Codlin, 20 oz. Pippin, May Bloom—a beautiful, summer variety; Alexander, very fine; Maiden's Blush, charming, *of course;* King Apple, Harvest, Snow Apple, Early Strawberry, Red Astrican, Yellow Bough, a fine early kind; Blue Pearman—good for keeping and cooking; Swaar, Pomme Grise, one of the best in the market for flavor; Williams' Favorate, fine, showy, early; Northern Spy, one of the best grown; Hawley, very large; Roxbury Russet, very fine; Hawthornden, most productive, large, good to keep; Wagener, remarkably productive and of good quality. Farmers may rely upon any of the above as good of their kind. In fact, we think they embrace the varieties best suited to our climate, although some fine ones may have been overlooked. The show of Apples could not have been much better.

There was a fine show of Pears. The best display, we think, was made by John Hunter, Esq., our town gardners, however, were not far behind. Amongst the best varieties we noticed the Duchess d'Angouleme, Bartlett, White Doyenne, late, and Macedon, early.

PEACHES.

There were 10 or 11 entries, the fruit, generally speaking, being magnificent.—We would particularly mention, as worthy the attention of horticulturists, the Early Crawford, Bergen's Yellow, large and early; Early French, most showy; George IV.; Yellow Alberge.

The show of Plums was extremely large—sixteen entries in all, embracing the best known varieties. Our climate is well adapted to the growth of this fine fruit, and as a matter of course the show in this department was particularly fine. The best varieties appeared to be Wilmot's Orleans, a splendid blue plum; Washington, yellow; Goliah Balmar, do; Orange; Gen'l Hand; Duane's Purple, Bleeker's Gage, beautiful; Coe's Golden Drop, Apricot. Every good garden should have a tree of each in it.

GRAPES.

The show of grapes was tolerably large, but only a few of the samples could be termed good. Amongst these we remarked the Clinton, which is considered one of the very best for this climate; the Isabella, white Sweetwater and the Catawba. Of the newer varieties there were the Concord and Deleware.

CRABS.

A very good assortment, the best being the Scarlet Siberian, red do, and new Transcendant.

We turn at the end of the gloriously luscious row, to the

DOMESTIC MANUFACTURES, &C.

The display of domestic manufactures was by no means insignificant. Of cloth there were quite a number of entries, and the quality was very good indeed. No farmer need be either cold or ashamed who can clothe himself and family in such materials. Mr. Horton showed a fine strong set of working harness, Mr William Martin also a very good sett of do, together with an excellent sett of single harness. Adjoining was placed a specimen of Clark and Sear's celebrated copper Lightning conductor.

A great many samples of butter were shown, both salt and fresh, and the quality was first-rate. We are not surprised that the Judges had much difficulty in deciding.

CHEESE.

Nine entries, most of it as good as a hungry man could wish to eat.

VEGETABLES.

The vegetables were the best we have ever seen in Goderich. The show was perfect, no article being wanting, and no exhibitor taking a prize without competition, more