The Weekly Mail.

VOL. II. NO. 89. TORONTO, FRIDAY, DECEMBER 12, 1873. PRICE THREE CENTS.

CANADIAN ITEMS.

Snow fences are being erected as exposed points on the Grand Trunk between Port Hope and Trenton. The object is to prevent snow drifts in deep or long cuts. One wanted at the deep cutting above New Glasgow is at least fifteen to twenty feet high.

The journal of the Legislative Council and Assembly of Ontario, is just issued. It contains full and correct lists of the private members and officers of the Legislature, the Exhibition of the Agricultural and Arts Association, the Ontario Game Law, Sept. 22nd, 23rd, 24th, 25th and 26th, 1873.

At Cambridge Hall, Barkerville, B. C., recently, a fire occurred, and during the excitement which followed, Mr. Hinton's office, safes, and his property — specimens, notes, and other valuables, to the value of $1,000. Chinamen were suspected. The person who set fire to the building are probably the same engaged in the robbery.

A most enthusiastic railway meeting was held at Newburgh, on Saturday, in the interest of the Bath, Newburgh and Tamworth Railway. The attendance was good and the people evidently mean business. A preliminary survey is to be made at once and a charter is to be applied for. The people of the place are to be congratulated on

[illegible] the operation of the "bird" so to speak, of 5 thousand cents per pushed on potatoes, which cannot now be imported from the Canada and the Dominion during the winter to relieve the necessities of the poor. The potatoes will state that in some parts of this country potatoes are worth more per bushel than wheat."

The Sarnia *Canadian* says that one of those rare and unwelcome animals, panthers, was shot a week or two ago by Mr. Kitson-master, of the 2nd concession of Moore. The beast emerged from his sylvan retirement to inspect a goose belonging to Mr. Kitson-master. The owner, not considering this view of the goose question to be a correct one, followed the thief, and shot him after a chase that lasted till about midnight. The [illegible] weighed 90 lbs.

A large and influential meeting has been held in Victoria, B. C., of gentlemen belonging to the various churches in the city to organize a Society for the better observance of the Lord's Day in Victoria. The hon. Senator Macdonald occupied the chair. A preliminary organization was effected, and steps will immediately be taken to enforce the Imperial Statute of Charles II., which statute is said to be applicable to British Columbia.

A work which promises to be very valuable and interesting to Canadians and the history and antiquity of Canada, is announced to be published shortly. It is "The Flora of Canada, with full descriptions of each species, and a key to the Genera, Illustrating the Dominion, by A. M. Ross, M.D., author of "Birds of Canada," "Butterflies and Moths of Canada," etc., etc., with lithograph illustrations of the principal genera." Dr. Ross, who is well known here as a Canadian naturalist, and author is well understood, and the book will be looked for with interest.

The Halifax *Recorder* says:—"A man named Dobson, employed in the Acadia Coal Company's colliery on Saturday night, broke his arm, and persisted. When his body was taken to his residence, his friends supposed that although the accident must have occurred during the evening, the unfortunate man had lived until morning. Dobson's wife is reported a man who was coming from Westville to Pictou, and when he came to the bridge he heard a noise as of some person moaning. He retraced his steps to the place where he heard the moans, and in the place with a light to make search; but the moans continued, and he thought he hearing the noise was merely imaginary, and he went on and there until the morning. Consequently no help was rendered the unfortunate."

"A few mornings ago," says a Halifax paper, "a man, sixty-three years of age, named Thomas Fairley, who had been drinking for some time about the depot at Richmond, while walking on the track, in front of the platform, was struck by the engine of a shunting train, thrown under the wheels, and instantly killed. His head was crushed from the body, and rolled a distance of about twelve feet from the body. His left leg was cut off just above the knee, the right leg at the upper one above. The vari-ous signed [illegible] the crew were put into an engine waggon and happened to be near at hand to take the home, which was only a short distance away. Deceased leaves a widow and large family."

The Brussels *Post* says:—"A horrible event occurred in Morris township, on Tuesday. Mr. Kitson's son, aged about 17 years, who was awakened by the shrieks of his twelve-year-old boy, ran downstairs, and found his mother, Mrs. King, he rushed up to his son, and pulled the blankets off the little fellow, who was all on a blaze, and carried him to his bed, and dashed wildly around the room. Mr. King, who had followed, put his hand's wake, rushed from the apartment thoroughly frightened. King lifted the blankets off the bed, and the fire had not had covered with blood, which was coursing down the child's cheek and neck. Investigation showed the fact that about seven-eighths of one of the unfortunate boy's ears had been eaten off by the hungry rodents."

On Saturday morning a dreadful accident occurred on the Grand Trunk Railway, near Cobourg, at Cobourgh, three miles east of Cobourg. Kingsmont Station, killed, one named Jno. Roddick, of Cobourg, but more recently of Lyndhurst, and Wm. Kingsmont, Esq., of Bay's Bay, a stage driver. They were returning after midnight to the city, driving a horse and buggy. The night was bright and clear, and the engineer whistled, they drove on to the track in front of the engine, and both were killed, Roddick instantly, and Bunnie dying in the General Hospital this afternoon. Bunnie was about fifty years of age. Roddick was killed. Both the deceased were fine looking men, and their sad death has occasioned an unpleasant sensation to-day in the city.

Capt. M. Barrett, of the barge Cutting Stone, which sank off the coast of Lake Huron at Port Elgin, on Saturday afternoon in a gale, reached home with three hands, the rest left the barge about nine miles out from there, disabled, laden with 24,000 bushels of wheat from Southampton for Port Elgin, were in tow of the propeller City of Detroit, which was laden with 5,000 barrels of flour for the village we stated between several hundred miles of the Canadian shore, and about 7 a.m. the City of Detroit sank in Saginaw Bay. Capt. Barrett saw the crew of the City of Detroit, left the boat, and one man was seen in another boat. The City of Detroit was sinking, and was down with the propeller. They had about twenty men on board.

We notice that the Ottawa papers a high compliment to Mr. John Jack and Miss Annie Fennin, the clever actors who delighted Ottawa audiences during their visits to this city. Mr. Jack had been playing *Rolando* and Miss Fennin *Fiorella* in Lucia, and afterwards received the following letter:—

"GOVERNEMENT HOUSE, OTTAWA, Nov. 27, 1873. Sirs,—I have been desired by His Excellency, the Earl of Dufferin, to convey to you the cordial thanks of the Government for the pleasure he and his guests have derived from your exquisite performance of Lucia. His Excellency is anxious to express his appreciation of the high dramatic talent you have displayed in your rendering of the parts of Rolando and Fiorella in "Lucia di Lammermoor." May I also request you to thank Miss Fiorin, and those who so well and ably supported yourself and her, for the pleasure which they afforded to their Excellencies by the manner in which they filled their several parts. I have the honour to remain, Sir, your obedient servant, H. C. Fletcher, Lieut.-Col., Secretary. —To J. Jack, Esq., Russell House, Ottawa.

The St. John *Telegraph* says:—"Prof. J. J. Herschel Smith and his wife, who amuse the young people of Amherst now and then with readings and music of a very cynical and ridiculous character, and who appeared at the Academy not long since, were indicted by several young men to appear again, the Institute being engaged for the occasion. Instead of treating the ludicrous scene in a rational manner, a large number of young men and boys had provided themselves with various devices for annoying the more respectable portion of the audience, and the result was a scene as uproar and scene of desolation as is to be hoped will not again be witnessed in the hall of the Institute. The performers were obliged to retire almost before the entertainment had commenced, the hall being filled with boxes and peas, which fell almost in a shower, together with eggs, etc. The cushions of the chairs were thrown about in all directions, and the police were finally obliged to clear the hall."

A large and influential meeting was held at Goderich, last week, in the interests of the Goderich extension of the Ontario and Quebec Railway. Mr. Horace Horton, Mayor of the town, was called to the chair, and Mr. J. J. Bell was appointed Secretary. Mr. John Fowler, of Cobourg, the promoter of the road, was present, and explained the scheme, pointing the advantages which would accrue from the construction of the road and the Goderich Harbour, which is the best built at the earliest possible moment. Messrs. Cameron, M. C., Sinclair and Crabb also spoke, after which it was moved by Mr. J. J. Bell, editor of the Huron *Signal*, seconded by Councillor Campbell, "that after hearing the explanations of Mr. Fowler respecting the construction of the Ontario and Quebec Railway through Fort Perry, Uxbridge, Newmarket, Orangeville and Arthur to Goderich Harbour, this meeting is of opinion that it will be of the greatest benefit to the whole Province of Ontario, and worthy of liberal consideration from municipalities along the line and from the Local Legislature of Ontario, and that a memorial be forwarded to granting a liberal bonus." Carried unanimously.

PRESIDENT MacMAHON.

HIS CIVIL AND MILITARY CAREER.

The Paris correspondent of a New York *Tribune* journal gives the following sketch of Marshal MacMahon, President of the French:—

"He was born in 1808, of a family that had emigrated from Ireland in 1688, after establishing all their property to the cause of the Stuarts. Settled in Burgundy the Marshal MacMahon retain their fortunes, intermarried with the French nobility, and lived in the style of the old gentry, as well as their owners. Maurice de MacMahon, Duke of Magenta, was created Count by Charles X., and his father, who was the intimate friend of the Count d'Artois, afterwards Charles X., was raised to the French Peerage of Peers in 1817 by the title of Marquis. The Marquis of MacMahon was in all points a nobleman of the old school, a stiff, shbored Liberals, Protestants and Jews with an equal and stately dignity, he lived through the Revolution and the Empire, in the midst of the Revolution, and the Empire, in the midst of the Revolution, and the Empire, "not only with honour, but with dignity." Not only with honour, but with dignity, his opinions were to be always loyal and Catholic, and nothing shaken, the views he educated his son, and he also taught him to be a true gentleman, for like his father, he was a true Christian and gentleman. He did not teach his pupil much mathematics or science, for he knew little; but he taught him fairly in Latin, gave him a smattering of history and English, and sent him to the military school of St. Cyr at the age of seventeen, neither more nor less ignorant than most other young noblemen of his time. This was in the year 1826, Charles X. had just ascended the throne, and the Bourbon dynasty seemed as firmly rooted as ever. All who knew of the warm friendship existing between the Marquis of MacMahon and the King prophesied for the young Count Maurice the most brilliant destinies. It was felt that, whether the boy worked or idled, whether he took to the profession of arms or to the pursuits of that Burgundy visit ago which charm, gentlemen and paints by now and, it is said, the King, who had no son, would be found a good father, for the young [illegible] to the Duchy, and the Marquis of MacMahon learned to ride before most other French boys can read, and to shoot long before he could spell properly. But was his education not neglected, for he had a family tutor, and it is said he happened before period, and for fear of the consequences for which the Order of Jesus is notorious, he was a thorough