New Advertisements.

Hotel—D. McRae.
For Sale—James Tisdale.
Surgeon Dentist—M. Nicholson.
Horse Bills—*Signal* office.
Canada Life Assurance Company—C. Fletcher.
Government Notice—Prov. Treasurer.
Hats—W. M. Savage.

Law Respecting Newspapers.

1. Subscribers who do not give express notice to the contrary, are considered as wishing to continue their subscriptions.

2. If subscribers order the discontinuance of their periodicals, they must pay all arrearages, or the publishers may continue to send them until payment be made, and collect the whole amount, whether they take the papers or not.

3. If subscribers neglect or refuse to take their periodicals from the offices to which they are directed, they are held responsible until they have settled their bills, and ordered their papers discontinued.

4. If subscribers remove to other places without informing the Publishers, and the papers are sent to the former direction, they are held responsible.

Jakie Sloan, 74 King Street East is our authorized Agent for Toronto.

Geo. P. Rowell & Co., 40 Park Row, and S. M. Pettingill & Co., 37 Park Row, are our only authorized Advertising Agents in New York.

GRAND TRUNK RAILWAY.

GODERICH STATION

Trains leave as follows,—

Mail	7.00 a. m.
Express	10.00 " "
Mixed	11.45 " "
	3.30 p. m.

Trains due as follows,—

Mixed	10.00 a. m.
do	3.30 p. m.
Express	3.30 " "
Mail	9.30 " "

Huron Signal.

GODERICH, APRIL 3, 1872.

Extra copies of this day's Signal can be had at Moorhouse's Book Store or at the Office—price 5 cents.

The Mail Rate Movement.

Quite an agitation has recently sprung up among the mechanics in Toronto, Hamilton, and some of the other cities and towns of Canada, in favour of having the number of hours which shall constitute a day's labour reduced from ten to nine. The principal argument a-kinned by those who wish to reduce the hours of labour is that labouring men require more time to devote to mental improvement and recreation than they now have at their disposal. The desire to improve their minds is very commendable on the part of the working men, but when they demand that the same remuneration shall be granted them for nine hours work as for ten, it is asking a little too much, and employers are quite justified in refusing to comply. The men as a rule are carried away by a sort of enthusiasm, or are coerced into joining trades unions, and they never stop to consider whether employers are in a position to comply with their demands, and at the same time carry on business. Ten hours labour a day by no means oppressive to a healthy man, and many employers have to work very much harder than their men, and have to incur all the responsibility of the business as well, so that so far as the work is concerned there is not much reason in the demand. But even if the nine hour system were adopted we doubt very much whether the men would be any more ready than now to avail themselves of any means of improvement placed within their reach. It is next to impossible to sustain Mechanics' Institutes, Reading Rooms or Literary Institutions now, even in the cities, and it is not probable they would be supported any better then. It is an indisputable fact that by far the larger portion of labouring men, especially those who have no wives or families, spend their leisure time in idleness or in frequenting places of questionable resort, and in additional spare hour would probably be spent in the same way. The union leaguers insist on only nine hours work being done, employers will be obliged to adopt the system of paying their hands by the hour. We guarantee in that event that most of the men would forget all about the mental improvement, and would be quite willing to work the extra hour for the sake of the extra wages.

Division of the County

Under the new census the County of Huron will be entitled to an additional member. There has been some conjecture as to the manner in which the County will be divided, and no doubt Sir John A. and his colleagues will endeavor to manipulate it in such a way as to secure at least one Conservative member. The Clinton *New Era* states that the division will be somewhat as follows:—

NORTH RIDING: Howick, Turnberry, East and West Wawanosh, Ashfield, and probably Colborne.

CENTRE RIDING: Grey, Morris, Hullett, Clinton and McKillop.

SOUTH RIDING: Goderich Town, and Township, Stanley, Hay, Stephen, Usborne, Tuckersmith and Seaforth.

Politically there can be no objection to this division, as taking the vote cast at the last election the Reformers if united could carry all three ridings. It would however, be simply dividing the North Riding, and the South would still be too large in proportion to the others. The above division with the Town and Township of Goderich attached to the Centre instead of the South Riding would perhaps be about as fair a partition as could be made.

Though no definite action can be taken in the way of selecting candidates till the manner in which the County will be divided is definitely ascertained, still it would be well for the townships to organize, and be prepared as far as possible for the coming struggle. Many an election has been lost through procrastination and indifference. Let such not be the case with the Reform party in Huron.

County Court Sittings without a Jury.

This Court sat on Monday last, Judge Brough presiding. There was very little business and the two cases entered were d-f.

[illegible]—A case of covenant
[illegible] Verdict for Plaintiff for $37.83. J. S. Sinclair for Plaintiff.

The Bank of Montreal vs. Bain et al—This was an action against the maker and endorser of a promissory note. The defendants pleaded several pleas in addition attempt to establish the set-off. It was admitted that they [illegible] Verdict for [illegible] Hays for Plaintiff. [illegible] for Defendants.

Goderich, Huron and Bruce Railway.

We have always been of the opinion that unless the Great Western Co. took hold of this railway it would never be built. This opinion is confirmed by the [illegible] which we learn from Saturday's *London Advertiser*, that a delegation of directors proceeded to Hamilton last Thursday to offer the company's charter to the Great Western. The latter has expressed its willingness to build the road provided bonuses are guaranteed to the amount of $6000 per mile. It is altogether likely that this will be done, in which event the Great Western Company, with their usual commendable energy, will no doubt push the road to completion. We do not see what object the Great Western would have in tapping the Wellington Grey and Bruce road, which is a part of their own line, and as the Northern terminus will be somewhere on the shore of Lake Huron, we think if proper steps were taken it could be secured for Goderich. Our harbour, when the improvements in progress are completed, will be the best on the lake, and the road by coming here would secure a large share of the traffic which would otherwise pass over the Grand Trunk. A capital line might be found from Exeter to Goderich, via Bayfield if thought desirable, and though the road might not pass through so well settled a part of the country as if carried to Seaforth or Clinton, it would be the means of opening up and developing the resources of a section which would ultimately furnish as much traffic as the eastern or central route. In addition it would pass through a part of the county where there is any quantity of timber suitable for building purposes and firewood, and one of the principal objects the London people had in projecting the road was to obtain such supplies. The townships North of the Grand Trunk will be sufficiently well served by the Wellington, Grey and Bruce and Toronto, Grey and Bruce Roads, and we feel satisfied that the Directors would be serving their own interests and the interests of the community by bringing their line to Goderich.

A meeting is to be held at London on the 17th inst., to appoint permanent directors, and we think it would be well if the town were represented on that occasion. The townships of Hay, Stephen and Goderich would be materially benefitted by the road being built as suggested, and could afford to give handsome bonuses. We trust in selecting the route the board of directors will see the advantages this line offers, and that the townships mentioned will be prepared to hold out such inducements as will warrant the directors in adopting it.

Aid to Railways.

By the order in Council published in another column, it will be seen that the government have settled upon the subsidies which are to be granted to the rival Railway lines through North Huron. The W. G. & B. southern extension is to receive a subsidy of $2,250 per mile from Wingham to Kincardine via Lucknow, on condition that they prepare that portion of the road for a third rail, and grant running powers to the T. G. & B. and L. H. & B. companies. The T. G. and B. are to receive the same subsidy from Harriston to Winghan via Wroxeter, on condition that they prepare the road for a third rail and grant running powers to the W. G. and B., and also that they complete their line to Teeswater. This arrangement, which, taking an unprejudiced view of the case, is the most equitable that could be fixed upon, leaves unsubsidized that portion of the broad guage between Dryden and Wingham and of the narrow guage between Wingham and Teeswater. The latter will be obliged to build the unsubsidized portion of the line in order to obtain the subsidy for the remainder, but the former are not obliged to build the unsubsidized portion, and accordingly it is a question whether they will do so or not. The Government have shown their wisdom in the allotment of these railway grants, and the House, to whom the privilege of accepting or rejecting the orders is reserved, will no doubt sustain them.

Subscribe.

In our next issue we will commence the publication of a capital story called "The Great Chancery suit of Gotobed vs. Bithorn" in six chapters. Subscribe at once for the SIGNAL and read it. The Huron SIGNAL is the largest paper in the County, and contains the best selections as well as the freshest and latest news. Send $1.50 and get it for a year.

Reviews.

LONDON SOCIETY.—We have received from Mr. Bentley the publisher, through E. J. Moorehouse, the March No. of London Society. It is well edited, and as usual contains a number of first class illustrations. We would recommend it to all, our lady friends in particular.

NEW DOMINION MONTHLY.—The April number is to hand. It contains some good articles. Published by John Dougall & Son, Montreal, at $1.50 per annum.

REPEAL OF THE DUTY ON SALT.—We have to thank R. Hay, Esq., for his remarks made before the Committee of Ways and Means at Washington, in favour of the repeal of the duty on Salt. He appears to have studied the matter thoroughly, and in a plain straight forward manner shows to the Committee that the Onondaga producers enjoy a huge monopoly which it will be to the advantage of the people of the United States to break down. He shows that by the removal of the duty the American producers would be placed at no unfair disadvantage, but that it will only place Goderich in a position to compete with them on equal terms for the supply of the North Western Market. We trust Mr. Hawley's remarks may have the desired effect of having the duty removed or reduced, though we fear there is not much prospect of such a desirable result being brought about during the present session of Congress.

LOCAL NEWS

DIVISION COURTS.—The next sittings of the Division Court will be held tomorrow (Thursday.)

NORTH RIDING OF HURON.—We understand that Mr. T. Farrow is in the field as the Conservative candidate at the next election for North Huron.

CHANGE OF HOUR.—From the 1st of April the hour at which the Odd Fellows lodge will meet on Thursday evenings, will be 8 o'clock instead of half past seven.

GOOD FRIDAY.—Good Friday was generally observed as a holiday and most of the places of business were closed.—The town, quiet as it usually is, wore a particularly forlorn aspect that day.

CANADA LIFE ASSURANCE COMPANY. We would direct attention to the advertisement of this company which appears in another column. We consider it a first class company and worthy of every confidence.

THE MAIL.—The first number of this paper was issued at Toronto on Saturday last. Its get up is neat, and having ample capital to give it a good start it will no doubt compare favourably with any of the city dailies in every respect.

CHANCERY SITTINGS.—The Chancery spring Sittings [illegible] appointed for yesterday were [illegible] till to-day in consequence of [illegible] not having received his Shorthand Notes. [illegible] that the Judge could [illegible] at the time appointed [illegible] Mowat will preside in [illegible] of the Chancellor.

CONSERVATIVE CONVENTION.—A Conservative Convention is to be held at Brucefield on the 10th inst., to nominate a candidate to stand at the foot of the poll at the coming election in the South Riding. A meeting was held in town on Friday evening last to appoint delegates.

BOARD OF PUBLIC SCHOOL TRUSTEES. A special meeting of the Board was called for Saturday afternoon last, but as only Messrs. Crabb, Swanson and Elliott made their appearance the meeting was adjourned for want of a quorum. The regular meeting will be held on Thursday evening next.

MUSIC HATH CHARMS.—With the advent of spring comes music both vocal and instrumental. We had a visit from a robin on Friday and from an itinerant harpist on Saturday. The vocal music furnished by the former is more acceptable after the long winter than the instrumental music of the latter.

PROMENADE CONCERT.—A promenade concert in aid of the parsonage fund of St. Stephen's Church, Huron Road, was held in the British Exchange Hall, last evening. It was largely attended, and the various performers sustained their parts well. A handsome sum was netted, which will be applied to the building of a parsonage.

THE PRINCE "ADRIFT."—The repairs on the gunboat "Prince Alfred" are being rapidly pushed forward. The last number of the *Canadian Illustrated News* contains an illustration of the boat as she appears in her present position. It is copied from a photograph by Campbell.

DOMINION TELEGRAPH COMPANY.—The Dominion Telegraph Company has made arrangements to put up another wire from Toronto to Goderich by way of Stratford, as soon as the spring opens. This will be a great convenience, as it will save the necessity of repeating messages at Stratford, as has now to be done.

MAPLE SUGAR.—A small quantity of maple sugar of this years make has found its way into town. The prospect of an abundant yield is however very poor. The spring is so late that when the snow once begins to melt it will go very rapidly, and as bright sunny days and frosty nights are the best for the free flow of sap, it is not probable that we can have much weather favourable for sugar making.

NO SALOONS.—At the meeting of the Town Council on Thursday last the saloon question again came up. A motion to grant two licenses was introduced, but defeated by a majority of the Mayor. It was resolved to grant two additional tavern licenses, though a license was properly refused to the Queen's Hotel till its proprietor furnishes the accomodation required by law.

THE WEATHER.—Though we are now into the month of April there is no more appearance of spring than there was last week. Storm and snow are still the order of the day. It is much the coldest [illegible] "When April blows his horn, it's good for both hay and corn." The inaugural horn of the morning of the 1st was blown, and in all conscience to inspire hope in the bosoms of our agriculturists.

RUNAWAY.—On Thursday morning when the whistle of the 10 o'clock train sounded for starting, a team of horses, with sleigh attached, which the driver had foolishly left beside the platform without being tied, started off at full gallop down East Street. We understand not much damage was done. The practise of leaving horses unfastened especially in the vicinity of the station is very reprehensible, and may some day be the cause of a serious accident.

THE LUCKNOW "TOCSIN."—We have been shown the prospectus of a new paper about to make its appearence at Lucknow, with the above name. In politics it will be Reform, and though we do not quite see the necessity for a newspaper at Lucknow, if it can be instrumental in increasing the spread of those Liberal principles for which the Reform party contend, we shall hail its appearance with delight. The name of Dr. McCrimmon is appended to the prospectus as Editor.

ST. GEORGE'S CHURCH.—The Easter Vestry meeting of St. George's Church, in this town, was held on Monday evening. The retiring Church Wardens were re-elected—J. H. Finlay on behalf of the Rector and R. H. Kirkpatrick by the people. A. Lefroy, J. H. Finlay and J. Davison were elected delegates to the Provincial Synod. The finances of the Church were reported to be in a very flourishing condition, and a vote of thanks was tendered to the Church-Wardens for their valuable services.

GODERICH SALT.—The Clinton *New Era* in speaking of the relative quality of the Goderich and Clinton salt address as a proof of the superiority of the latter that it brought $1.30 when the Goderich salt men were glad to sell theirs at $1.20. We can explain that the difference in price was not owing to the difference in quality. When the government imposed a small protective duty on salt, the Goderich producers gave a guarantee that they would not raise the price above $1.20. The demand during that season was brisk, and though they could have had a larger price for the asking, they would not break faith with the government, but sold at $1.20 while the Clinton men asked $1.30. Dr. Hunt's analysis of the brines speaks for itself.

METEROLOGICAL STATION.—Some time last fall we saw it stated that Goderich was to be one of the meteorological stations which it was proposed to establish in Canada in connexion with the Signal departmentat Washington. The location was afterwards changed to Southampton. So far as we know nothing has been done as yet towards opening the station, and we think an effort should be made to secure it for Goderich. The chief value of the weather reports as taken at these stations is in connexion with the shipping, and as this is to be the principal harbour of refuge on Lake Huron it is obviously the proper place for the station to be established. By having a High School meterological station the reports of both observers might be compared and thus ensure a greater degree of accuracy.

INQUEST.—An inquest was held on Thursday last, by Dr. McDougall, on the body of David Keefe, a resident of the flats, about 60 years of age, who expired suddenly the previous evening. It appears a blind man named Slattery keeps an unlicensed groggery somewhere in the neighborhood of Platt's Mill, where the deceased and others were in the habit of resorting to carouse on the bad whisky to be obtained there. Keefe had been at this place during the afternoon in question and had been drinking freely. In the course of the evening Slattery spoke to him several times and received no answer. Being blind, and therefore unable to ascertain the cause of Keefe's silence, he called in some neighbours when it was discovered that he had died while sitting in the chair which he occupied. After hearing the evidence the jury returned a verdict in accordance with the facts.

Town Council.

The regular meeting of the Town Council was held on Thursday evening last, 28th March. Present, the Mayor, Reeve, Deputy Reeve, and Messrs. Davison, A. Smith, Smaill, Pasmore, Campbell, Gardiner, Clifford, Mackay, Gordon, W. G. Smith and Doyle. The minutes of last regular and special meetings were read and approved.

The Mayor gave a verbal report of the interview with the Government by the delegates from Goderich regarding a subsidy to a line of boats from Sarnia and Goderich to Duluth, which was considered satisfactory.

He also laid before the Council a copy of a memorial presented to the Government by the delegates from Western Ontario asking for the granting of said subsidy.

A communication was received from Dr. Rosebrugh asking if the town would be willing to incur an expense of $40 in behalf of Mr. Jordan, a blind man sent by the town to the Infirmary in Toronto.

On motion of Mr. Clifford, seconded by Mr. Pasmore, the sum of $40 was granted.

The following communications were received.—Petitions from Messrs. McMurchy, McPherson and Bingham, praying for certificates to obtain license for Shop Licenses.

Petitions from Messrs. Hosker and Donogh for Tavern license.

Report of License Inspector.

Petition from Whitely and Elliott for Shop licenses.

Moved by Mr. Detlor, seconded by Mr. Gordon, that a certificate for Shop license be granted to Whitely and Elliott. Carried.

Moved by Mr. Smaill, seconded by Mr. Gardiner, that By-Law No. 2, 1872, be amended so as to grant Ten tavern licenses instead of Eight.

Moved in amendment by Mr. Pasmore, seconded by Mr. Gordon, that the By-Law be not amended.—Lost.

The main motion was carried by a majority of five.

Moved by Mr. Gardiner, seconded by Mr. Clifford, that the By-Law be amended as grant licenses to two Saloons.—Lost.

Moved by Mr. Gibbons, seconded by Mr. Clifford that a By-Law be now passed granting Ten Tavern Licenses.—Carried.

The said By-Law was passed through its different stages.

Moved by Mr. Doyle, seconded by Mr. Smith, that John Donogh's petition be granted.—Carried.

Moved by Mr. Davison, seconded by Mr. Clifford, that Mr. Hosker be granted a license for the Queen's Hotel.—Lost.

Mr. Hosker was, however, given to understand that as soon as he had the accommodation required by law a license would be granted.

Moved from the Finance Committee was read and adopted.

A report from the Street Inspector was read, when it was moved by Mr. Mackay, seconded by Mr. Gibbons, that $15 be paid John Runciman on his account of $23.40 for lumber.—Carried.

An account of Sommerville and Hennin for flour for the poor amounting to $39.33 was ordered to be paid.

Moved by Mr. Detlor, seconded by Mr. Doyle, that the Mayor and Clerk obtain the security required by law from the Town Treasurer and submit them to the Council.—Carried.

A communication was received from M. C. Cameron, M. P., offering Lot 174 as a gift to the town provided they erect a Town Hall upon it within a reasonable time.

Moved by Mr. Smaill, seconded by Mr. Gordon, that Messrs. Gibbons, Clifford, Campbell, Detlor and the mover be a Committee to report upon the offer, and also ascertain what the adjoining lots can be purchased for.—Carried.

Moved by Mr. Doyle, seconded by Mr. Detlor, that the Mayor and Messrs. Gibbons, Clifford, Davison and the mover be a committee to investigate and report upon the financial condition of the town.—Carried.

The Council then adjourned.

Howick.

NEW SCHOOL HOUSE.—A new school house is to be erected in Section No. 5, at Gorrie. It is much required.

WELL SOLD.—Wm. Green, Sr., has sold his farm of 75 acres for the handsome sum of $2,500.

Walton.

PRESENTATION.—Mr. Shaw, teacher of Union School No. 11, was presented with a beautiful set of China at the examination, on the 16th inst. Mr. Dewar, school Inspector, was present at the examination, and expressed himself well satisfied at the condition of the school.

Bluevale.

BIBLE SOCIETY.—The Annual Meeting of the Bible Society was held in the Wesleyan Church on the 14th ult. The report showed that the sum of $17.95 was raised last year, which was divided between the Canada and British and Foreign Bible Societies. The attendance at the meeting was small, which was the more to be regretted as the Rev. Mr. Caulfield delivered a very interesting address on Bible work.

Tuckersmith.

SOLD.—Mr. McTavish has sold his stallion "Young Robin Hood" to a party from the County of Peel, for the sum of $500. Horse flesh is looking up.

PRESENTATION.—Mr. Stoddard, teacher of the Egmondville School, was presented his pupils on Friday last with a costly and handsome gold watch, containing a considerable sum of money, at the close of the examination on the 25th ult.

Clinton.

SCHOOL EXAMINATIONS.—The quarterly examination of the schools was held immediately before the Easter vacation. The different departments are in a satisfactory condition.

COPY BOOKS.—The Managing Committee of the Schools, in conjunction with the Head Master, have been instructed to examine into and report upon the best series of copy books, with a view of having them introduced into all the departments. The want of uniformity in this matter has been seriously felt in other places as well as Clinton, and the example of the Board in that place might be followed with profit.

STALLION.—Yesterday we saw weighed, the famous horse Cambridgeshire Bob, which recently killed its owner, Mr. Stonehouse, of Goderich township. It weighs 1,820 lbs., and is a handsome specimen of horse flesh.—*New Era.*

SPRING SHOW.—The Spring Show of the North Huron Agricultural Society will be held here on Tuesday 16th April.

McKillop.

SCHOOL EXHIBITION.—On Tuesday evening the 25th ult there was an "Exhibition" in the School in S. S. No 4 of this Township, which is taught by Mr. Martin Sutherland. The School was examined during the day and was found to be in a highly satisfactory state, Mr. Sutherland having proved himself to be one of the best teachers in the Township—if not in the County. The Exhibition consisted of recitations, dialogues, readings, and instrumental music. Mr. Hough playing the violin to perfection. There was a large audience upon the occasion and it was 11 o'clock before the programme was completed, after which Dr. Campbell of Seaforth, who had arrived during the latter part of the evening was called to the platform and made a short address, expressing himself well pleased with the proceedings. The sum of $30 was realized, there being an admission fee of 20 cts. We understand that the money goes towards the establishment of a library for the Section, a worthy and laudable purpose indeed. The proceedings terminated with the singing of a few choice pieces by the pupils, after which the large audience dispersed.

Seaforth.

DENTIST RETURNED.—Dr. J. G. Bull, our able and popular dentist, who had to suspend business for some time on account of sickness in his family, has returned to his old stand over A. G. McDougall's store, Main Street, Seaforth, where he will be found during office hours, that is from 8 a. m. to 5 p. m.

A ROOF FALLEN IN.—On Sunday the 31st ult., the roof of the store lately occupied by J. Bonthren & Son, on Main Street, fell in with a crash, on account of the weight of snow on the roof. Mr. Counter our esteemed watchmaker and jeweller, had on the day previous removed his stock into the building, and from the noise during such a calamity, had on the day in question gone on to the roof to shovel off the snow when the whole affair collapsed. We understand that his fine show cases and some good clocks have been broken. His loss will be considerable.

A BOY HURT.—On Saturday last the 30th inst., a boy whose name we have not ascertained, got his foot pretty severely injured with a sleigh. His foot got caught, and he was dragged some distance.

MR. DANIEL MCGREGOR.—Mr. McGregor, book-binder of Hullet, has just removed to Harpurhey, having purchased the house lately owned and occupied by Thomas Sherman, opposite Dill's Hotel. Mr. McGregor is a first class bookbinder, and will be a great acquisition to this place We wish him success.

THE DRAMATIC CLUB.—This Club we understand have suspended operations for the season and have just made a donation of $200.00 to the Mechanics Institute in this place. They previously gave $30.00 which makes $50.00 in all. The money in question will be spent in purchasing books for the Institute.

S. S. ANNIVERSARY.—On Friday evening the 29th ult., the Anniversary of the W. M. S. School, was celebrated in that Church. The attendance was good. The children sang a great many fine pieces, and the parents in large numbers were present and seemed to enjoy the proceedings very much. The W. M. S. School is in a very flourishing condition. There is an able staff of teachers who take a deep interest in the religious training of the youth in connection with the Rev. Mr. Kennedy's charge. The Rev. gentleman himself is very popular with the young people of his congregation and helps them in every possible way. Success to the school.

THE LATE COLD SNAP.—Several marriages occurred in town last week. It is said that the stormy weather was the moving cause. We hope our young friends may have it *calm for the future.*

OUR NEW PLOUGH MAKERS.—Hogan & Munro our new plough makers, we understand are already doing a flourishing business. They have rented Mr. D. McNaught's old shop Main St. North. They are said to be excellent mechanics. We wish them success.

THE PUBLIC HEALTH.—There is a good deal of sickness in town and country at present. The prevailing diseases are Rheumatic Fever, Inflammation of the Lungs, Bronchitis, Coughs, Colds &c. The people are also afraid of the small pox, and large numbers are being vaccinated. A few cases of Erysipelas have also occurred amongst the rest Mr. Simon Purcell has had a severe attack. It is to be hoped that "old Simon" may soon be "himself again."

CONCERT IN THE C.F. CHURCH.—It is intended to have a concert in this Church at an early day, the object of which is to raise money to fence that fine edifice. Mr. Frank Partridge the precentor has the superintendance of the affair, therefore it must be a success.

Obituary.

Died, at the Jail, Goderich, on the 22nd of March, 1872, aged 72 years, Ann Robertson.

Mrs. Robertson was a native of Airie, Badanoch, Scotland. She married Mr. William Robertson, a native of the same locality, who was appointed Jailor of the Goderich Jail soon after it was built. For a long she filled the situation of matron and she was much respected and her worth fully appreciated among her friends and acquaintances. In the year 1862, her husband, Alexander, made up his mind to go to British Columbia with several young men from this part of the country, and a party was formed to go by land and pass over the Rocky Mountains. After reaching the head of the Fraser River, in running a dangerous rapid he was most unfortunately drowned; on receiving the mournful intelligence she was completely broken down with grief and sorrow, and her health rapidly gave way. Paralysis rendered her unable for seven long years to leave her chair, and for the last twenty months she was confined to her bed, unable to move; for the last four months she was speechless, and the greater part of the time unconscious. During her protracted illness she was regularly attended by the Rev. Mr. Mackid, of St. Andrew's Church, and the filial attendance of Mr. and Mrs. Campaigne to their aged relative is beyond all praise. May the blessing promised in the 5th commandment be theirs.

AN OLD FRIEND.

Notes from Montreal.

(From our Special Correspondent.)

Since I wrote last nothing of any great interest has occurred here. The winter still continues in full force, indeed for the past week or two we have had some intense cold—almost equaling any that we have had this season. It is rather discouraging just as we had begun to look for spring, and expect to see at least, bare ground, to find the mercury falling to ten and fifteen degrees below zero. Last year at this time, the street cars were running and the snow was almost entirely gone, now if we get rid of it in a month we shall be lucky. To look at the great banks that line our streets, one would hardly imagine that May would see us free from snow. There is one advantage we possess over many places however, that is the rapidity with which the snow leaves us when it really begins in earnest. A few days sometimes will make almost a miraculous change in the appearance of our streets. There is always the danger of floods from such rapid thawing, and we may have to put up with one this year. I hear that some fears are expressed by the "experienced ones" that this may be the case. We earnestly trust that their fears may prove unfounded, for a flood is a terrible calamity, and the suffering among those living in the lower part of the city can hardly be estimated.

FUEL.

We are having a foul famine. The prices have been going steadily upwards for weeks and now it is almost an impossibility to purchase coal at any price. The price of coal last fall ranged from six to eight dollars, lately it has been selling as high as eighteen dollars per short ton, and to-day cannot be bought for any money. The farmers in the vicinity have had their harvest in the wood business. Maple sold last week for sixteen and even eighteen dollars per cord, and tamarack as high as ten dollars. One of the great drawbacks to housekeeping in Montreal is the scarcity of fuel, and various plans have been suggested to bring wood into the city. The Grand Trunk might do it, for there is an abundance of it along their lines, but they will not take the trouble to get it. One of the strongest arguments in favor of granting money for a new Railroad is that it will lower the price of fuel. The citizens are beginning to wake up to the importance of this subject and are giving it their serious attention, and when we consider that for six months of the year we are under the dominion of the "ice King," it would seem as if it were high time that something were done. I notice that one or two fuel associations have been formed which will prove of great benefit to the community generally. For example the members of the city police have formed an association each member of which contributes a dollar or so per month.—This money is to accumulate until next summer when wood and coal are cheap, and a barge load to be bought, and retailed to the subscribers at the wholesale prices. This will be a great boon to these men, whose pay at the best is just enough to keep soul and body together without having to pay famine prices for fuel. Some of the large manufacturing firms here buy up coal and wood for their men, charging a small percentage to cover expenses, and retail it at a low figure during the winter. These arrangements are very good as far as they go, and reflect great credit on the firms who are charitable and thoughtful enough to take the trouble, and they do not lose anything either, for they get their money back again and with interest, and they gain largely in the end, for their men are more faithful and work with greater zeal for those employers who show that they have some regard for the comfort of their hands. Still, but a small number, comparatively, are able to benefit by this. Hundreds of poor families are obliged to pay whatever price the large dealers choose to ask, and as they, for the most part, are entirely devoid of conscience, they will ask whatever they dare to. I do not wish to do these dealers any injustice, but I firmly believe that they get to be the most heartless class of men in the world. They know that the poor must have fuel or freeze, and they take advantage of the poverty and necessities of their customers to make fortunes. Their money is not made from the rich, if that were the case, it would not be so much matter. People who have money or credit take care to supply themselves with fuel when it is cheap, but the poor shivering wretches who are forced to buy a cord, or few hundred weight of coal at a time, it is from these that they draw their money. And some of them, not content with charging an exorbitant price even, descend so low as to cheat in the weight or measure. You would scarcely believe this to be the case, but there have been several instances of it this season which have come to light, and how many there have been that have not been known, it is impossible to say, but no doubt, the cases are many, and that too, by men who are considered highly respectable, whose names figure prominently in charitable contributions. There are men in this city as in all cities, who will subscribe a thousand dollars to a Chicago fire, or to build a church, where their fellow citizens can see their names, or the *Press* can publish their generosity, who would take the last cent from some poor needy man, if they were certain no one would know of it. Is this charity? You will excuse me, for writing so plainly on this subject. I see so much misery and suffering which might be at least in part otherwise alleviated, if our rich men did not so generally wait for some public occasion for practising their charity, that I cannot refrain from saying what I think. Speaking of contributions lately one gentleman really praiseworthy donation that has been given lately to McGill College by Sir Wm. Logan, who has presented that institution with $18,000 for the purpose of founding a chair of Geology. Dr. Dawson is spoken of as the first Logan Professor. This is not the first time that the university has been assisted by Sir Wm. Logan, but never before by so munificent a bequest. If a few of our rich men would take pattern by him, and give of their abundance, McGill College would be placed in an independent position. It appears strange that some of the millionaires of Canada have not thought of this way of rendering themselves famous. Why, even if it were only for the selfish motive of making a reputation that would be lasting, they could find no easier way than this. It has become the fashion across the line for men to bring their names into notice by large gifts to such institutions. It will be a happy day for McGill when our rich men catch the contagion. And it would always appear that the time is at hand, for I have another instance to record, though in this case it is not the University of McGill College that is to be benefitted, but a COLLEGE FOR WOMEN.

Donald Ross has given ten acres of land near the mountain with a large endowment fund for the purpose of founding a Female College in this City. All honor to him, may we soon hear of an Allen Professorship with a few hundred thousand dollars to support it.

ST. PATRICKS DAY

has come and gone. It passed off with more than usual eclat, in spite of the opposition of the Rev. Father Dowd of St. Patricks Church. This Rev. gentleman endeavoured last year to stop the procession that is customary on that day. He did not succeed, however, and one would have supposed that he would have learned wisdom by that experience, and have gracefully yielded to the inevitable. This year the same thing occurred over again, the Rev. Father making more strenuous efforts than before to stop the procession, but with no success. He even forbid it from the pulpit, but all was of no use, the Irishman will have his walk and his banners. He might have known better than to have attempt to stop it. The truth of the matter is that Father D—does not object to processions in themselves, on the contrary, he rather favors them, but he wished to arrange it according to a programme of his own, and to exclude certain people from it, who were obnoxious to himself. So he failed, and we Protestants are not glad of it for it shows that the Catholics here have still some independence and self respect left. Father D—used to rule the St. P. Society, but lately he has found it getting unmanageable, so he has withdrawn. The president, Mr. Howley, elected in spite of his opposition, is a gentlemen of very liberal views, and so many of the officers of this society, far too liberal for Father Dowd. Verily the world is progressing, and so are liberal ideas advancing, and will continue to do so, though all the Father Dowds of the country may oppose them.

SIGMA.

The School Law Regulations.

From Windsor to Cornwall a cry has gone forth against the new School Law Regulations. The books are too many, and the studies overwhelming. These complaints reached the house of Assembly, and Mr. Blake was compelled to interpose his authority. Amid the general complaint respecting the great number of books required, and the oft repeated changes in those books, a most marvellous circular has just been issued by Dr. Ryerson. This circular was intended for the information of honorable members of the House of Assembly, and wherein, among other assertions, he says:—"I am prepared, at the proper time to prove the following statements:—

"1. That the Text Books authorized by the Council of Public Instruction have (with two individual exceptions) been only changed once in 25 years.

"2. That the new Regulations *have not been* obligatory, only recommendatory at present, until experience *had* demonstrated their usefulness and adaptation in the schools.

"3. That with the consent of the County Boards and the concurrence of the *County Inspector*, I have authorized *him* (after the July and last December examinations) to grant special certificates to every teacher who failed to pass these examinations."

Now, if Dr. Ryerson can substantiate these assertions, all we can say is, he will have very little trouble in future, as he has often tried in the past, in proving that black is white. We however, demur, and for the following reasons.

With reference to 2-Sec. No. 1—The following Text Books have been changed within the time specified, and are placed in the order of their authorization by the Council of Public Instruction:

Grammar—1st, Lennie's; 2nd, Bullion's; 3rd, Miller's; 4th, Davies'; 5th Miller's (re-authorized.)

Algebra—1st, Brydges'; 2nd, Colenso's; 3rd, Sangster's or Todhunter's.

Arithmetic—1st, Irish National; 2nd, Sangster's; 3rd, Smith's.

Natural Philosophy—1st, Sangster's; 2nd, Tomlinson's.

Chemistry—1st, Yeoman's; 2nd Sangster's; 3rd, Rocco's.

Mensuration—1st, Irish National; 2nd, Sangster's; 3rd, Irish National.

Readers—1st, Irish National; 2nd, Canadian Series.

Spelling—1st, Spelling Book Superseded; 2nd, New Spelling Book.

With regard to assertion No. 2, we are rather puzzled at the grammatical construction thereof, but presume that the meaning is, "the Regulations are not obligatory, but only recommendatory at present, until experience *has* demonstrated, &c."

In reply we beg to observe that every school official with whom we have conversed is decidedly of opinion that they are obligatory, as per instructions issued from the Education Office, and we append the following proofs:—Sec. 37, School Act of 1871, declares that "no Public or High School shall be entitled to share in the fund applicable to it, unless it is conducted according to the Regulations provided by law; and by Sec. 119 of the Ontario Consolidated Public School Act, the duty of making such regulations devolves on the Council of Public instruction; and by the 5th clause of Sec. 10 of the same Act, the Chief Superintendent is required to give such instructions as may be necessary for conducting all proceedings under the said Act. Under this authority in the *Journal of Education* for June, 1871, page 88. Sec. 20, with the appropriate heading "General Regulations for the organization of Public Schools," we find the following:—

"Inspectors *should see* that the law and regulations on the subject of Text Books *are carried out*. The Act declares that "Inspectors are required *to prevent the use* of unauthorized Text Books, and schools using them are not entitled to be paid any part of the fund; and the Council has given notice that it "*disapproves* of the use in any High or Public School *of any Text Book* which is *not included in the list" of Text Books authorised by it*, as provided by law."

Not obligatory, forsooth! only recommendatory! Well, well, we do not understand English, if this be so. Furthermore, the Council has prescribed new "Programme of a course of study for Public Schools in Ontario," classifying them in six divisions. This utterly impracticable Programme is printed on every Register supplied to the schools, accompanied by the following remarks, "In *all* cases the order of subjects in the Programme *must* be followed, and the time prescribed for teaching each subject per week *must* be observed, nor *must* any subject of the course be omitted."

If language plain as this fails to convey the idea of obligation, we *must* go to school again as we are said to be "never too old to learn."

Lastly, in respect to assertion No. 3, we are again somewhat confused with the grammatical construction, but think the Doctor means, "after the recent July and December examinations I authorized the County *Inspectors* with *their* concurrence, and the consent of the County Boards, to grant special certificates, &c." Now, how does this agree with the following extracts from the Chief Superintendent's "Remarks, on the recent examination of Teachers, dated Toronto, August 17, 1871, and addressed to the "Public Press."

"A County Inspector has not authority to give temporary certificates to rejected candidates, nor have I the authority to authorize him to do so, yet he can do so on the recommendation, or with the consent of a majority of his fellow examiners."

In other words, Dr. Ryerson says in August, 1871, "I have *not* the authority to authorize," and in February, 1872, I *have* authorized."

We now, in conclusion, beg leave to call public attention to the following absurd list of studies for the sixth class, taken from the new Programme aforesaid, and printed on the Registers as obligatory in every sense of the word:—

Reading, spelling, writing, arithmetic, grammar, object lessons, composition, geography, use of the globes, ancient history, modern history, Christian morals, elements of civil government, physiology, natural history, agricultural chemistry, (botany, algebra, geometry, mensuration, book-keeping, linear drawing, vocal music, French. We must stop for breath! What humbug to try to teach a child all the subjects here laid down for!

The Text Books, too, for this moderate course would cost at least $16, if it could be carried out, but the Programme is impossible, no ordinary scholars being far enough advanced to enter the class, and but few teachers qualified to instruct in half the branches mentioned.

Brockville Recorder.

The North Huron Railways.

ORDERS IN COUNCIL, APPROVED BY HIS EXCELLENCY THE LIEUTENANT-GOVERNOR, MARCH 25, 1872.

The Committee of Council have had under consideration the application of the Toronto, Grey and Bruce Railway Company, hereinafter called the Toronto Company, and the Wellington, Grey and Bruce Railway Company, hereinafter called the Wellington Company, that in case the Wellington Company do comply with the conditions imposed on that company by this Order in Council, then the Toronto Company will do what may be necessary (including the works preparatory for the laying of a third rail) to give the Wellington Company running powers over that portion of the Toronto Company's railway between Harriston and Wing