Evening Mercury.

TUESDAY EV'NG, APRIL 6, 1869.

Town and County News.

It is erroneous to suppose that John Bunyan died in 1688. He still lives at Guelph.

Why should Guelph possess the champion belt of England? Because Thomas Sayers lives there.

Why are a section of the Grammar School boys slightly addicted to intemperance? Because they have Porter at school every day.

COURT OF CHANCERY.— The sittings of this Court commenced in the Court House to-day. We will give a report of the proceedings to-morrow.

NORTH WARD.—Mr. Harvey having resigned his seat as Councillor for the North Ward, a requisition is being circulated asking Mr. Massie to stand in his place for the vacant office.

A very pleasant assembly was held in the Town Hall last night, at which about thirty couple were present. Vale's quadrille band was in attendance, and dancing was kept up until a late hour.

THE ARTILLERY COMPANY.— The members of this company are requested to meet in the Drill Shed on Wednesday evening, 7th inst., at half-past 7 o'clock, sharp. A full attendance is particularly desired.

THE LADIES' BENEVOLENT SOCIETY.—This Society met yesterday afternoon. The funds being exhausted, and the demands for charity altogether beyond their limited means to relieve, it was reluctantly decided to suspend further operations until the fall of the year.

ENTERTAINMENT.—The complimentary entertainment which we understood was to have been given to Dr. Griffith, in Elora, last Friday evening, we are informed is postponed for a short time in consequence of the bad state of the roads. Due notice will likely be given before it comes off.

We understand that several parties will put in an appearance to-morrow at Court to answer to the charge of depositing filth on the public highways—a nuisance which should be promptly put down, in view of the manifold evils in the shape of disease which it is liable to bring forth.

The attention of all interested is called to the sale of pianos, organs, melodeons, horses, buggies, &c., which takes place to-morrow at half-past one o'clock, at Clark's Music Store, Market Square. This is one of the rarest chances ever offered for procuring a first-class instrument very cheap.

OUR NEW CLERK.—The council last night appointed Mr. John Harvey, Town Clerk and Treasurer, in room of Mr. Hough resigned. Mr. Harvey is an old and valued servant of the town, having been in the Council for more than ten years. We feel sure that in his new position he will continue to serve the ratepayers with fidelity, and that in all their business intercourse they will find him courteous and obliging.

TEMPERANCE FESTIVAL.—There will be a grand temperance demonstration in the Drill Shed this evening, which in all likelihood will be the best affair of the kind ever held in Guelph. The renowned temperance lecturer, Mr. Geo. Easton, will be present and deliver an address ; besides which there will be songs, recitations and speeches. Tea to be served from 6 till 8 o'clock. Lawrence's silver cornet band will be in attendance. Tickets 25 cents ; children half-price.

GUELPH MAPLE LEAF B. B. CLUB.— At the annual meeting of the Guelph Maple Leaf Base Ball Club held at Nichols' Hotel, the following officers were elected for 1869 : John Coulson, President ; Robert Howard, Vice-President ; Thomas Pallister, jr., Secretary ; J. T. Nichols, Treasurer ; William Harvey, George Watson, George Steel, Field Committee. The club is in a first rate position as regards numbers and its finances, and the prospects for a very successful season are excellent.

INSOLENT STAGE DRIVERS.—Passengers travelling on Dalby's line of stages, between Elora and Guelph, we are told, complain frequently about the insolence they receive from some of the drivers employed on th t branch, as well as the swearing propensities to which these "knights of the stage horse" are dreadfully addicted. We are certain that if the proprietor was cognizant of these facts he would at once dismiss such fellows from his employment. We know that Mr. Dalby always endeavors to treat the travelling public with kindness and courtesy, and would recommend any person having a reason to complain of his drivers to do so to him, when he will doubtless deal promptly with his employees.

VELOCIPEDE EXHIBITION. — Messrs Marston & Colson astonished the natives last night by their feats on the velocipede in the Drill Shed. The manner in which they handled the machines was extraordinary. They can now or fast, straight ahead, circled, curved—in fact described all the graceful figures on their two wheeled machines which an elegant skater will make on the ice. And all the time they balanced themselves so nicely and worked the pedals with so much ease that it was quite a treat to look at them. Their double exhibition was, however, the best. The exhibitors each took a lad on board, and gave quite a circus entertainment, the young amateurs common to a circus, while the machines were all the time going at a 2:40 rate. We have never seen any velocipedists so well up to their business, and no one should miss seeing them. They will give another exhibition to-morrow afternoon in the Drill Shed commencing at 1 o'clock The charge of admission is low—only 15 cents —and all should go and see them.

Lord Bury, at the dinner of the Colonial Society, spoke very plainly in reference to Dr. Goldwin Smith, whom he accused of a desire "to dismember the Empire by persuading Canada to annex herself to the United States."

ANNEXATION IN NEW BRUNSWICK.—The papers in New Brunswick generally agree in stating that the recent resolution offered in the Parliament of that country in favor of annexation, did not shock either of the political parties very much.

Town Council.

The regular meeting of this body was held last (Monday) night—the Mayor in the chair. Present, Messrs. Holliday, Heffernan, Day, Bruce, Howard, Buckland, Chadwick, Sayers, Allan, Goldie, Wood, Robertson, Mitchell and Harvey.

The Clerk read a communication from Mr. W. Reynolds, County Treasurer, in reference to errors in the return for taxes for 1868—lot No. 1, Harvey's survey, Hooper street, being assessed for $1.18, but the Collector had only taken 66 cents, and said lot was advertised for sale for balance of assessment—asked Council to take action in the matter ; also, no such lots as 90 and 91, in same return, could be found in the South Ward.—Referred to Finance Committee.

Mr. Harvey handed in his resignation as Councillor for the North Ward, which, on motion of Mr. Chadwick, seconded by Mr. Heffernan, was accepted.

In moving this resolution Mr. Chadwick paid a high compliment to Mr. Harvey for his long and faithful services in the Council.

The Mayor was also instructed to issue a writ for a new election in the North Ward.

The Clerk read applications for the office of Town Clerk and Treasurer from Messrs. Rice Meredith, Edwin Newton and John Harvey.

A petition from Mr. Alex. Congleton was read, asking for a higher allowance for taking care of the engine.—Referred to Fire and Water Committee.

An appeal for charity from the Council on behalf of Alex. Long, to the extent of a loan of two or three dollars, was also read and referred to Relief Committee.

Mr. John Hambly prayed that a license be granted to him for keeping the premises known as the Ontario Hotel, on Gordon street. His petition was signed by Mr. Francis Prest, and many other ratepayers—Referred to License Committee.

An application was presented to the Council from Mr. B. B. Presant and others, asking Council to take such steps as they may deem necessary to afford a suitable sidewalk on the west side of London Road, from McTague to Norfolk-st. Referred to Road and Bridge Committee.

Mr. Wm. Edwards sent in a petition for an increase of salary, as he had to pay a large proportion of his present allowance for lighting the street lamps.—Referred to Market House Committee.

The applications for the vacant office of Clerk and Treasurer were then taken up by the Council ; and the Mayor stated that, in accordance with the 37th rule, when there were more than two applicants, each one should be voted on in the order in which their applications were read by the Clerk.

The yeas and nays were then called for Mr. Meredith— but no member voting yes, Mr. Newton was brought forward and received two votes.

For the appointment of Mr. Harvey the votes were as follows :

Yeas — Messrs. Holliday, Heffernan, Day, Bruce, Buckland, Sayers, Chadwick, Allan, Wood, Robertson and Mitchell.–11.

Nays—Messrs. Howard and Goldie.–2.

Mr. Allan presented report of Finance Committee, which stated that they had examined the matters complained of by Thos. Galt, Esq., and find that the error occurred in the office of the County Treasurer, and recommended that the Reeve present said petition at the next meeting of County Council. Also recommended payment of the money applied for by the Separate School Trustees, as soon as the exact amount due can be ascertained ; also payment of the following bills on account of the Board of Health, for advertising, viz., Messrs. McLagan & Innes, $5 ; Mr. G. Pirie, $3. The committee further recommend that the Clerk and Treasurer shall have all his books posted up to the date of the appointment of his successor, and that the Auditors do proceed with the auditing at once.—Adopted.

The Road and Bridge Committee report was read by Mr. Mitchell, recommending that the tender of Messrs. Gowdy & Stewart be accepted, which was adopted.

Mr. Heffernan read the report of the Market House Committee, which was adopted.

Mr. Robertson read the Fire and Water Committee report, which stated that they did not deem it expedient at present to enter into a contract for coal oil ; that they recommend the payment of $3 to John Ewing for teaming engine to fires at Allan's mills and Day's Block ; and as they find that parties employed in cases of fire, and not paid at the time, were apt to present inordinate accounts, they recommend that in future the Chief Engineer or some one appointed by him be authorized to settle with such parties on the spot, and present the bills for payment at the following meeting of Council. Adopted.

Mr. Howard moved, seconded by Mr. Buckland, that this Council do express regret at the loss of Mr. Hough's services as Town Clerk and Treasurer—he having held that position for the long period of eighteen years, during which period he had given entire satisfaction to all concerned, and with a view to the best interests of the Municipality ; that the Mayor, Messrs. Goldie, Mitchell, McCurry, Robertson and the mover, be a special committee to draft a memorial to this effect, together with a suitable testimonial, to be presented at the next meeting of Council.—Carried unanimously.

The By-law Committee were instructed to bring in a report defining the duties of Clerk and Treasurer at the special meeting of Council on Thursday evening next.

Council then adjourned to meet again on Thursday evening next.

PROSPERITY OF TORONTO.—The Leader says the gradual movement westward of the wholesale trade—the steady growth of Toronto, and, we fear it must be said, the declining prosperity of Montreal—are indicated by the latest trade returns. Whilst, during the last quarter, Montreal did not collect within $70,000 as much duty as during the previous quarter, Toronto, in the same time, collected $30,000 more in respect to the first quarter of 1868. Our country merchants are every year realizing more fully that they can buy their goods as cheaply in Toronto as in Montreal. Our own wholesale merchants are equal to the change—and Montreal merchants appreciating the westward movement in business, are either moving here altogether or opening up branch houses. Toronto has a great future before it. When our new railways are built, and the North-west Territory is opened to settlement, it will be a city many years to swell our population up to 100,000 souls. Never before were there so many buildings in course of erection, and yet there is not anything like houses enough for our present, and rapidly increasing, population.

Municipal Morality.

From the Goderich Signal.

If it is true as asserted by some writer that "Corporations have no souls," it is equally true that the members of some of them have remarkably tender consciences when they are led to feel that their interests are at stake. In too many of our municipalities the members live from January to January in such fear and trembling that they dare not do right lest some snap-dragon individual—and what township has not its snap-dragons?—should denounce them at the polls as extravagant wasters of "the hard-earned dollars of the poor man." The man who, from such a fear as this, does what his conscience as a moral man and his knowledge of business principles declares to be wrong, loses his manly independence, becomes a cheese-paring machine, and comes down at last so low that he can complacently point to two-pence-half-penny savings at the end of his term as a good and sufficient reason why he should be again sent to the public crib by acclamation. This principle is not general, as we shall show, but that it prevails to a very considerable extent will not be disputed for a moment. The result of its adoption is invariably bad. Inefficient men muddle township accounts, half-paid assessors slur their work so badly that hundreds of dollars are lost at the annual equalization or in some other direct way, incompetent clerks destroy the validity of By-Laws under preparation and bungle egregiously at every turn, jobs are let at rates so ruinous that contractors jockey in every possible way to make them pay, and where one dollar is saved by a lack of proper inspection scores and hundreds are lost for want of it.

The system adopted by some townships of asking for tenders for the offices of assessor, collector, clerk, &c., is so absurd that we wonder how any body of intelligent men could entertain it for a moment. Who would think of asking tenders to fill vacancies in the business of ordinary life? Would a merchant accept the clerk who offered to work the cheapest, the farmer his laborer, the lawyer his clerk, the flock their pastor? Of course not. Efficiency, in all such cases, is the grand touch-stone. The cheap clerk might be slovenly in person, ignorant and insolent; the laborer would probably be a miserable time-server, caring for nothing so much as his meals, and the knocking-off hour ; the lawyer's clerk would probably be a brainless fop ; and the cheap parson would, in all human probability, turn out to be a bullet-headed nonentity, and so on, ad infinitum. It is a sound scriptural fact that the laborer is always worthy of his hire, that is, we take it, the real, earnest, efficient laborer—and it is generally accepted as a business axiom that an underpaid servant always receives a premium for dishonesty. However strict his "bringing up," the temptation to do his greedy employer out of what he considers a fair remuneration for his services is too strong to be safe in the long run.

Why should the recognized principles of ordinary business be thrown aside by so many of our township councils merely to obviate censure from some blatant stump screamer? We know of men who would scorn a mean action in employing a servant privately, who would higgle and humbug and peddle the little jobs in their gift in a sickening manner, not because they think they are doing right, but because they are afraid they will not be returned to office next year. This spirit is one of the worst that any person could be actuated by, and it is high time that it was replaced by something higher and nobler.

Now, on the contrary, it is a fact that in those of our townships which employ good men to fill their offices, on correct business principles, and pay them decently without any abominably small-souled higgling, it will be found as an invariable rule that the work is well performed, and money saved to the corporation. The assessment rolls are clean and lucid in every particular, the collector is up to the mark, and the clerk is generally the most useful man in connection with the body. Besides all this, it is generally the case that when the reeves and deputies come before the people and say, "We have endeavored to do our duty honorably and justly, we have employed none but good men, we have done with the public funds what we would have tried to do in ordinary business, we have acted independently and thoughtfully," they are again sent to represent the people, whereas the cheese-paring fraternity hang on to office by their teeth, as it were, and after all their whittlings are liable to be the first sent to the right about.

The people have this matter of municipal morality to a great extent in their own hands. What they should demand of their public servants is efficient service in every department. A certain amount of money is raised every year and the question should be not so much, How great a sum have you saved by cutting down salaries or employing ignorant botches, but how much good substantial work are you prepared to show? Have your road jobs been let to the best advantage? Has your assessor done his duty satisfactorily? Is your clerk a good one? and so on. Let the people show that they will not put up with the losses they sustain thro' the gross inefficiency of half-price servants and the evil will soon work its own cure. The sooner the better for all concerned.

Although railway matters in the County of Grey are quiet at present, the directors of the Toronto, Grey and Bruce Railway are not idle. They held a series of meetings in Melancthon last week, at which the ratepayers generally expressed themselves in favor of the By-law about to be submitted in that township, to grant a bonus to the railway.

During the first battle of Bull Run a brigadier general discovered a soldier concealed in a hole in the ground, and ordered him to join his regiment. The man, looking him full in the face, placed his thumb upon his nose and replied, " No you don't, old fellow ; you want this hole yourself."

Another horrible story comes to us from Cairo, Ill. A father attempted to starve his three children (the oldest not being six years old) to death by locking them up in a vacant room, where they were discovered after being several days without any nourishment.

The Presbytery of London is about to overture the English Presbyterian Synod to ordain Evangelists, in order to meet the exigencies of the neglected English, and the careless Scotch. Of the latter there are 20,000 in Liverpool alone.

MADRID, April 5 —Informal meetings of the members of the majority in the Constituent Cortes, have been held and have resulted in a resolution to support ex-King Fernando of Portugal for the throne of Spain. The Council of Ministers have also decided to second the majority of the Cortes in this determination, and a deputation with Don Salustiano Poegaga at its head has gone to Lisbon to invite King Ferrando to accept the candidature.

LONDON, April 5.—In the House of Commons to-day, the Bill for the abolition of imprisonment for debt, passed its second reading.

American Despatches

Charleston, S. C., April 5th.—A heavy frost last night had a disastrous effect on the cotton crop where the cotton had been planted early. Nearly all will have to be replanted. This will throw the cotton crop back about one month.

Augusta, Ga., April 5th. — There was a heavy frost this morning, and fears are entertained that the fruit crop and early vegetables are injured.

New York, April 6th.—The Herald's special says : Senator Sumner informed several of his fellow Senators to-day that he had authority for saying that J. Lathrop Motly had been agreed upon by the President and Secretary of State for Minister to England.

Mr. Easton's Lecture.

Mr. Easton delivered an eloquent and interesting lecture in the Primitive Methodist Church last night to an excellent audience. During the proceedings a gentleman present took occasion to make a sweeping attack on the Mercury for a paragraph which appeared in its columns last night, about a temperance lecturer in England, who said that "if all the licensed victuallers were gone to Heaven to-morrow, the community would be all the better off for it," and closing with the words, that the person who said this is "like a good many other temperance lecturers, intensely prejudiced and illiberal." The gentleman in question must be extremely thin-skinned, for he took it for granted that the publication of the above was intended as a slur on Mr. Easton. We beg to tell him and those who may be influenced by what he said, that they were never more in error in their lives. The paragraph in question happened to be cut out of a paper a fortnight ago, before it knows that Mr. Easton was coming here, and like many other miscellaneous matter was laid over day after day till by the merest chance it happened to be set up, and inserted at this particular time. But that there was any intention by inserting it to cast reflections on Mr. Easton or the work he is engaged in, was never for a moment dreamt of, and as we said before any one who would draw such an inference from it must be exceedingly thin-skinned. Had we any objections to Mr. Easton, or to his mode of advocating temperance, we would cause them openly, honestly and boldly, and not try to damage him by inference, or strike him over another another man's shoulder. But while we have a high respect for him, and value as much as any one the cause which he is advocating, we are not blind to the fact that there are some temperance lecturers, who by the way they present its principles, do the cause much more harm than good.

Shooting Match.

The return match between ten men of the West Ward and ten men from the other three wards of the town came off yesterday at the Rifle Range. Mr. Geo. A. Bruce led the West Warders, and Mr. John Stewart marshalled his clan. The result of the match, as will be seen, was a victory for the West Ward by 21 points. That veteran shot, Mr. J. Hazelton, topped the whole in his shooting, having made the very large score of 35. In the evening the vanquished entertained the victors to an oyster supper at Deady's, which was excellently served, along with the other good things which help to make a first class entertainment. The company spent a very pleasant evening. We understand the West Warders are not to be allowed to rest on their laurels, but will be challenged again at no distant day by their competitors, who may be conquered, but are not subdued. The following is the score, eight inch bullseye, any position :—

Names.	200 yds	500 yds	Total
Geo. A. Bruce	2 2 2 3 3	4 3 3 2 3	27
C. Heath,	4 2 2 3 3	3 3 3 3 2	27
A. Stewger,	3 3 3 2 2	3 3 2 2 2	22
H. L. Walker,	2 4 4 3 4	4 3 4 4 3	38
M. Deady,	2 3 3 3 3	3 3 2 2 3	26
Geo. Elliott,	3 3 3 5 4	2 2 3 3 3	29
E. Newion,	3 3 2 2 2	5 3 5 4 2	26
Thomas Day,	3 3 0 2 2	3 2 3 2 2	22
G. O'Connor,	2 3 4 3 4	4 4 3 4 3	31
G. Hadden,	2 2 2 2 2	2 5 0 8 0	18
W. Holliday,	3 3 4 4 3	2 2 3 4 4	32
W. Sunley,	4 3 4 4 3	4 2 3 4 4	35
J. Inglis,	0 3 2 3 3	0 3 3 3 0	30
J. Hooper.	3 3 2 4 3	2 3 2 3 2	27

Grand total,   275

Names	200 yds	500 yds	Total
J. Stewart,	3 3 4 3	2 3 5 3	27
Alex. McKenzie,	2 5 3 5	4 2 2 3	30
J. T. Nichols,	2 2 2 3	2 3 3 2	24
H. McCrae,	2 0 2 4 2	3 5 3 3	28
G. O'Connor,	2 3 4 2 3	4 4 3 4 3	31
G. Hadden,	2 2 2 2	2 0 0 6 0	18
W. Holliday,	3 3 4 4 3	2 2 3 4 4	32
W. Sunley,	4 3 4 4 3	4 2 3 4 4	35
J. Inglis,	0 3 2 3 3	0 3 3 3 0	30
J. Hooper.	3 3 2 4 3	2 3 2 3 2	27

Grand total   254

DULL TIMES.—Business in general has been rather flat in Guelph during the present winter, but with the approach of spring, and its balmy breezes, better times are anticipated. The various building operations going on in town, as well as the construction of the Wellington, Grey, and Bruce Railway will make business lively till next fall at all events. Our merchants should be prepared for this, and keep in remembrance that at the MERCURY STEAM PRINTING HOUSE, Macdonnell street, they can have their orders better, cheaper, and quicker executed, than can possibly be done at any other establishment in the County. Next Wednesday is April fair day, and a crowd of eager buyers will be in town, and it would be well to remember how the cheapest and best goods are to be had. This can only be done by telling it to them with printer's ink.

A valuable library of 600 volumes belonging to the estate of a gentleman who died recently at Lewis county, Ky., was sold at public auction the other day for $35.35.

A report comes from Washington that Mr. Hamilton Fish, the present Secretary of state, will go to England as an Ambassador, and that the Cabinet will be remodelled.