mettle of his steed than to the chances of a contest between a single individual and a score of infuriated foes. The Kaffirs, after having narrowly observed the movements of the British force, then passed to the left, and ascended a height, distant about a mile in front, where they took up a very strong position, evidently with a determination to dispute their further progress. Colonel Somerset was not, however, disposed to baulk their anticipation of a fight, and hence, no sooner did he ascertain their position, than he formed his men and put them in position for attack, waiting with a good deal of impatience for the arrival of Capt. Hogg's levy, which was about a mile in the rear. At length, all having joined, and every arrangement being made, the advance, under the immediate command of Colonel Somerset—the Cape Mounted Rifles being led, in the absence of Major Armstrong, by Captain O'Reilley—wound slowly up the face of the hill, the Kaffirs being most advantageously sheltered under cover of some immense rocks. The troops kept steadily advancing, until within eighty yards of the enemy, when, orders being given, the bugle sounded the gallop, and the next minute the troops had crested the hill, dismounted, and were in among the enemy. The Kaffirs at first opened a running fire, but, being pushed vigorously, in twenty minutes they were driven from their position down the hill into the ravine below. From this, also, they were speedily dislodged, leaving behind them their arms, karossas, and several horses. They fled into the adjacent valleys, which deeply intersect that part of the country, and present the most favourable positions that could be desired by Kaffirs in carrying on their peculiar mode of warfare. Only seventeen of the enemy were found killed in this affair, but it is affirmed that many more must have fallen, the Kaffirs carrying off as many of their dead and wounded as possible, as was indicated by the numerous blood tracks which were seen along the line of their retreat. The Kaffirs keeping under shelter, their numbers could not be estimated, but their main body is supposed to have been not less than 800 men, besides some detached parties posted so as to take advantage of any circumstance which might turn up in their favour. The casualties among the British troops were comparatively trifling. The Kaffirs for twenty minutes maintained a sharp fire, but which seems, probably from the abruptness of the acivity, to have been very ineffective.

The weather was described as extremely severe, but Colonel Somerset was determined to push on, as it was affirmed that immense droves of cattle were sheltered in the broken country, at no great distance from the scene of this encounter; and it was supposed that it was to cover them that the attempt to arrest the march of the troops was determined on.

The state of the Colony is reported in the journals we have received to be most satisfactory, in so far at least as respects agricultural prospects. The season was favourable, the rains had been plentiful, and the crops afforded promise of an abundant yield.

MISCELLANEOUS.

"From the bursting of the South Sea bubble even unto this day," remarks the *Cambridge Advertiser*, "panic has followed panic as regularly as wave follows wave on the broad Atlantic. We are a panic-loving, a panic-fearing, a panic-engendering, people."—And will be so while the dogmata of Peel are a currency.

The *Edinburgh Register* recommend a lullaby from Scot for the Duke:—

"Rest warrior, rest, thy warfare o'er
Dream of fighting fields no more."

During the last week, says the *Newcastle Advertiser*, there have been a series of religious meetings held in the North and South Shields, the minister of one denomination exchanging his pulpits with the minister of another.

On Tuesday a large public meeting was held in Edinburgh to petition against killing by the hangman. Mr. Cowan, M. P., Mr. C. Gilpin, Mr. H. Vincent, and others, addressed the assembly.

Exise usages, says the *Daily News*, are becoming ludicrously strict. Not only is ginger-wine charged with duty when sent from Scotland to England, but the essence of coffee is also threatened with duty, because, forsooth, in order to preserve freshness, a homœopathic quantity of alcohol is dropped into each bottle of the mocha fluid.

The advowson of the vicarage of Camberwell was offered for sale at Garraway's on Wednesday, and bought in at 12,700*l*., the highest bid being 12,600*l*. The gross annul income was stated to be 2,244*l*.; the present incumbent's age is 44.

It is announced that the astronomers of Pulkova have ascertained the existenc of a third satelite of Uranus. Herschel, the discoverer of this planet, thought to have perceived as many as six satellites; but astronomers had only succeeded in determining the orbit of two, and it may even be doubted whether a trace of the others had ever been discovered.

A statue is to be erected at Hull in honour of Andrew Marvel, who represented that town in parliament during the reign of Charles II.

Bishop Sant, the new Catholic bishop of Malta, has, like his predecessor, Caruana, refused to take the oath that he will not attempt to disturb the Protestant faith, required before he can be admitted as a member of the Maltese council of government.

The *Sunderland Times* affirms that, "in the true sense of the word, the Jews do not believe in Moses and the prophets,"—How we live and learn!

The League of Universal Brotherhood numbers 20,000 members, composed principally of individuals connected with some branch of the Christian Church.

It is calculated says the *Stamford Mercury* that the Druggists of Lincoln sell 1,872 gallons of laudanum annually. Every one ought to have printed over his shop, "Dealer in Death—old people and children quietly disposed of."

According to the last census, St. Petersburg possessed a population of 443,000.

Political intrigues, says the *Sun*, have never been aided by the Monks of St. Bernard; proselytism is apart from their aspirations; they have fought the good fight of humanity for 850 winters, and there efforts ought to have been regarded as a sufficient reason for their being considered as neutral.

Mr. Taxton, the chief mechanical engineer at Cairo, has made a design for a steam-carriage capable of conveying a whole cargo of passengers, luggage, and goods of one steamer across the Desert in a few hours, and which, with all the necessaries, will only cost 3,400*l*.

At a meeting of the Metropolitan Commissioners of Sewers on Thursday, Lord Morpeth stated that the Government were anxious that the ordnance survey of the metropolis should be effected as soon as possible, because they felt that no effective system of drainage could be accomplished without it.

[illegible] OF WIFE BEATING.—CLERKENWELL.—W. [illegible] was charged with assaulting Mary Good[illegible] his wife.—The complainant, with considerable [illegible], owing to the injuries she had received, [illegible] that in consequence of the prisoner's con[illegible] she was obliged to live apart from him. She [illegible] with her daughter to the prisoner to ask him [illegible] pecuniary assistance, when he commenced a vio[illegible] attack upon her, dragged her into the street, [illegible] her a desperate blow on the face which broke [illegible] nose bone, knocked her down and kicked her [illegible] she lay insensible, & he would have killed her [illegible] had it not been for the interference and assistance of her daughter and some passengers. The daughter gave confirmatory evidence.—The prisoner in his defence, denied the assault, saying the complainant fell down and injured herself, and it served her right as she was drunk at the time.—He was fined 5*l*. or two month's imprisonment.

CHLOROFORM AND ETHER.

Several operations were, on Monday last, performed at the Free Hospital, Gray's-inn-road, upon patients under these anæsthetical agents. Mr. Thos. Wakley, junior, was the operator in all the cases, and excited the admiration of his surgical brethren by the consummate skill and power of nerve with which—in one case in particular, and that the most difficult,—he acquitted himself. This was a most arduous and delicate operation, namely, the removal of a diseased os calcis and astragalus, the bones which form the heel portion of the foot. The anæsthetical agents were administered by Mr. Robinson, with his newly invented apparatus. The first case was one of strabismus, or squinting, in which the cure is effected by the division of certain muscles of the eye. The patient readily inhaled the chloroform, and after some spasmodic twitching of the limbs a state of coma was produced, and he remained perfectly passive and quiescent in the hands of the operator. The lower eye-lid was now drawn down, two or three slight cuts were made with the knife, and in half a minute the operation was over, the value of the chloroform in this case being shown by the complete insensibility of the eye, and the facility which it consequently afforded to the surgeon in making the necessary incisions. A little cold water sprinkled over the patient's face revived him immediately, and he walked away apparently doubtful if the operation had been performed. The next case, in which the advantages of the chloroform was also exhibited, was the excision of a large fatty tumour from the shoulder blade. In this case the patient, a female, was very much excited, and, after two or three inhalations, vehemently protested against the operation being proceeded with. This was partly owing to nervous irritability, and partly to having a short time previously taken some brandy, which had been injudiciously given to her to sustain her courage. She then became sick, which appeared to relieve her, and Mr. Robinson having explained the object with which the chloroform was administered, and what its effects would be, she expressed her willingness to try it again, and after inhaling for three or four minutes she became insensible. The tumour was now very dexterously and rapidly removed by Mr. Wakley, not more than half an ounce of blood having been lost, and the patient was then allowed to recover gradually. She was profuse in her expressions of gratitude, complained of lassitude, expressed a wish to lie down, and was removed to one of the hospital beds. On questioning her shortly afterwards, she appeared quite unconscious that the tumour had been removed—she felt no pain, but complained of weakness and depression of spirits. She also stated that she was frightened at the number of gentlemen by whom she was surrounded, and felt no inconvenience from inhaling the chloroform. The third and most interesting case was the removal of a portion of the foot. The patient, a man 31 years old, and of a delicate scrofulous habit, had been attacked with caries of the bones forming the heel, and had strenuously resisted amputation of the leg, which had been advised as the only means of saving his life. Mr. Wakley then suggested the removal of the diseased bones, to which the patient assented. He exhibited great nerve and determination, and after shaking hands with Mr. Wakley, stretched himself upon the couch, and commenced inhaling with great vigour. He was soon in a state of insensibility, and the operation commenced. It would be out of place in a non-medical publication to detail the difficult and complicated process by which the bones of the heel were laid bare, and detached from their articulation from the ankle joint; but when it is considered that the whole weight of the body is sustained by this single joint, which possesses at once great pliancy and enormous strength, the operation will appear sufficiently formidable. Mr. Wakley was ably assisted by Mr. Erasmus Wilson, and after a portion of the tibia, the large bone of the leg, had been removed to make an even surface, the divided vessels were taken up, the flaps turned down, and secured with 15 sutures, and the whole operation terminated in 25 minutes from the time the patient commenced inhaling. The loss of blood was between four and five ounces, and the patient, on recovering again, shook hands with the surgeon, and appeared in high spirits on finding that all was over. The last case was an operation for fistula, in which the vapour of ether was administered; and the result in this instance was equally satisfactory. Nothing could exceed the coolness, precision, and despatch with which Mr. Wakley performed the several operations we have detailed, and the medical gentlemen present expressed themselves highly gratified and interested by what they had witnessed.—The *Lancet* of this day contains an able scientific report of this most remarkable operation. We understand that the patient continues to do well. It is said that the late Mr. Liston declined performing a similar operation.

Pauper Emigration from Great Britain.

PETITION

To the Honourable the Legislative Assembly, &c. &c.:

The Petition of the inhabitants of the city of Toronto, in public meeting assembled,

RESPECTFULLY SHEWETH,—That during the season of 1847, out of an emigration of nearly 100,000 souls, nearly 40,000 were landed in this city.

That out of this number a very large proportion were suffering from extreme poverty and destitution, and bore with them the malignant and fatal disease of typhus fever.

That from the 1st of July last, the hospitals and large temporary buildings used for such purposes, have been constantly filled to overflowing, with a very large number of fever patients, often amounting to the number of 800.

That the mortality attending on such a mass of disease and destitution has been most serious and alarming.

That this city has to deplore the loss of several of its most respected inhabitants, from contact with, and attendance on, the sufferers from this disease.

That general alarm has been excited in the community, in consequence of the evils attendant on such an emigration, and the citizens view with most serious apprehension, the possible repetition during the next season, of similar scenes of misery and death.

That the evils attendant on such an emigration have not been confined to Toronto, but most parts of the Province have suffered very materially therefrom.

Your petitioners most respectfully request your Honourable House, to institute the inquiry into the causes of the evils complained of, and to make such alteration in the existing laws, as may be deemed advisable to provide for the health and preservation of Her Majesty's Canadian subjects, and to prevent this Province from being afflicted with the evils of pauperism, disease, and suffering, which a longer permission of an ill-regulated and reckless immigration—such as has so lamentably signalized the past season—will be sure to entail on them. And your petitioners also request that your Honourable House will cause such representations to be made to the Imperial Government, as will induce the adoption of precautionary measures in the various parts of the British Isles, for the due protection of Her Majesty's Canadian subjects.

And your petitioners will ever pray.

A resolution has been laid on the table of the United States Congress, proposing to exclude slavery from all territory obtained from Mexico.

☞ *All persons to whom the few first numbers of the* WESTERN CANADIAN *may be sent for approval, will please return them, if they do not wish to become subscribers.*

THE WESTERN CANADIAN.

LONDON, FRIDAY, MARCH 10, 1848.

The subscribers of the *Western Canadian* will find by this number that the Proprietors have been able to fulfil their promise of enlarging the paper. They are happy to acknowledge the approving reception given to the three first numbers: its small size has been the only note of disapprobation that has reached them.

It will be their particular study to make the *Western Canadian* a complete business paper; and this will be seen already, in its containing this day the Telegraphic Reports from Montreal and New York up to Thursday, being two days later news than any in Town.

They have long been convinced that a paper of the character of the *Western Canadian* was wanted in London; and though they had formed an extensive connection in the county, they were not prepared for such an hearty reception in the Town as they have experienced. They have double the number of subscribers in the Town they expected to have in so short a time.

Free Trade.

NO. II.

FREE TRADE consists in buying and selling without restriction of any kind, whether the articles of commerce be brought to us from a distance of twenty miles or twenty thousand. Every obstruction, therefore, placed in the way of buying and selling, is first an act of injustice in preventing a man, or any number of men, from selling all their surplus produce, or other property that they may wish to sell, and from buying what produce or other property they may wish to buy. Secondly, it is an act of folly, as all such obstructions, originating in the interference of Governments for the object, in most instances, of producing greater commercial prosperity, have the reverse effect: they limit buying and selling, and thus impoverish the people who wish to buy or sell; and as these do so for their profit and advantage, they are certainly the best judges of that.

Under Free Trade there must be the greatest amount of produce sold, and merchandize bought in return, of which the individual or a whole nation is capable. Trade can then never exceed its limits, for it can have none but that of the profit and advantage of each and all engaged in buying and selling; there can be neither over-trading or under-trading. Free Trade will employ all the capital a nation has to invest, and occupy all the population in agriculture, manufactures, or commerce.

The utmost extension of buying and selling puts the farmer in a position of always reaching the best market, and of disposing of all he wants to sell, and buying all he wants in exchange. The essential requisite of a good market for produce does not consist in its geographical position so much as in freedom—the utmost facility to do with our produce what we think will be to our own advantage. When that exists, men will lose no time in effecting the buying and selling. That facility, then, constitutes the best market, no matter where it may be situated.

These are all assertions of simple facts, almost too well known to require to be stated; but the object in now repeating them is not to supply information, so much as to show where the obstructions to Free Trade are to be found.

In the simple view of buying and selling with the greatest advantage all we have to buy or sell, almost every one admits the claims of Free Trade, and it is now only opposed by ifs and buts, by which the objects and motives of its opposers are revealed. Their objections are not to Free Trade in the abstract, but to its consequences, which they clearly see will be of such a nature and extent as to constitute the greatest revolution the world has ever known. In the previous number of this journal, the unwise and unjust interferences of Governments in affairs not within the legitimate province of Governments, were merely alluded to. They will require more particular notice, as perhaps there is not one in the series of charges which we have to make against Governments that has not some influence in restricting buying and selling. At present there are some of these charges, the notice of which may be deferred. We shall give our first attention to those that have the greatest influence.

It is somewhat strange that it matters little whether the Governments which interfere with private rights and property are despotic or representative Governments. The comparison is rather in favour of the former. As far as we can take a view of the nature and extent of the commerce of the ancients under the most despotic monarchs, taxation being direct, commerce was not interfered with to any great extent. No doubt the ignorance of monarchs and rulers in a great degree prevented much interference; and the enormous extent of the commerce of ancient times, favours a conjecture that it had few legislative obstructions. The language of the Sultans of Asia seems to have been simply this, with reference to buying and selling—"Pay me the tribute, and do as you like." Ancient Tyre, the mistress of commerce, seems to have been a free city, as Hamburg is now; her commercial prosperity was the consequence of freedom, not of protection. Her renowned daughter, ancient Carthage, followed the maternal example, till she fell a victim to the envy and love of conquest which characterized the Romans. It is extremely probable that Free Trade first had rule, till the usurpations of Governments suppressed it, for the aggrandizement of kings and nobles. On the contrary, under the representative Government of England, whose commerce has expanded to an extent during the last hundred years as much beyond all precedent as beyond all expectation, interference with private rights and property has been the rule, there being little or no direct taxation: as Lord Brougham once showed, with admirable wit and ingenuity, that the people were taxed from the cradle to the grave, and even after that.

The love of power inherent in all men, and the love of revenue to sustain that power, have no doubt constituted the ruling motives for the excessive taxation and interference with private rights and property so prevalent under English Governments. It is rather strange that Governments in England should so long continue to play the part of their Saxon ancestors. They are put in power by the representatives of the people, to protect their rights and property, and none rule more absolutely than they do in obstructing trade. It must, however, be admitted that many of the present obstructions are the consequences of a barbarous policy, now happily becoming extinct, of acquiring glory, as it is falsely called, by making war with other nations, and effecting conquests, either for the acquisition of territory or for the extension of commerce.

These remarks in reference to the comparative influence of despotic and representative Governments upon commerce, are designed to prepare a reply for those who will perhaps deny the assertion that representative Governments are guilty of an act of usurpation in interfering with private rights and property in relation to buying and selling. It will be said on this subject, as a writer has recently done on another great question under a representative Government,—every thing is done with the consent of the people, as the legislators are chosen by the people. This is true only in theory—practically it is not true. It may be that great leading questions are, after a long contest, disposed of by the majority, to which the minority are bound to submit; but the fact of the existence of a dissenting minority, shews that the subjects of legislation should only be such as all are *collectively* interested in, excluding all those in which they are *only individually* concerned. It will, we think, be found on full consideration, that with respect to the rights of the people to buy and sell how, and when, or where they please, or in short, to Free Trade, that it belongs to the latter, and not to the former class of subjects for legislation—or rather, it is not a subject for legislation at all. To illustrate this a little: it would be quite probable that in a Legislature of one hundred persons, sixty of them might vote on a question affecting the rights and property of individuals; these sixty would be individually interested in the decision, and so would the minority of forty, but it being a question in which their interest collectively might be less, or felt less, than their interests individually, the whole affair would cease to have a national character, and be a mere contest for individual advantage between the sixty on one side, and the forty on the other. The forty would have to submit, but they would be treated unjustly.

To expose further the fallacy contained in the assertion that under a representative Government all legislation is the act of the people, let us suppose a case. Let it be said that it is the duty of Government to educate the people; in what way does this differ from the people educating themselves? They do so with the people's money, whether the Government pay a part and the people pay a part, or whether the Government pay the whole. In either case the Government levy a tax on the people, and apply it. The procedure is this: A. has the right to educate his family as he thinks proper, but he appoints B. his representative in Parliament to do it for him; B. transfers the task to C., the Government; the Government transfers the work to D., E. and F., Superintendents and other officers. All these officers A. is to pay for, and the cost of education of his children besides. Surely it would be a shorter and safer way to encourage independent enterprise among Teachers, and that A. should pay T. direct. The case is merely this: A. has some money, which he gives B. to take care of; B. lodges it with C., with orders for him to return it to A. Would it not be safer for A. to keep it himself? Such is the argument with regard to individuals taxing themselves through their representatives, for the performance of duties which they could, and often must after all, perform themselves. Their money has to run the gauntlet through a host of paid officers, and perhaps may be lost altogether, but if not, it goes on to be smaller and beautifully less, till it is at last applied to the purpose to which, when much larger, it might have been more effectually applied, without all those intermediate agents. It is, therefore, evident that it is not because we may have a representative Government that the individual rights and property as affected by the acts of the Government, have the consent of the people, and are their acts. Responsibility is a favourite term; but it is always better neither to contract or to impose it, at least no farther than absolute necessity requires. Responsible Government is a good thing, but why should we make Governments responsible for what we can and ought to do ourselves, when the remedy, if it can be had, must always follow the injury, and which injury could not occur if such responsibility had not been taken or imposed? At the same time the injury is certain, and the remedy uncertain. A. had better keep his money than trust it to B. and C., merely for the purpose of paying it back to A.

Such is the argument relating to legislation affecting commerce, but in which the chances of corruption and management are greatly multiplied. If a man is able to buy and sell best for his own advantage, why should he call on the Legislature to help him, and why should the Legislature encumber him with their help, when if left alone he will trade more, and be able to give more towards the general expenses of Government on the principle of direct taxation?

We shall resume the subject in our next number.

Several Police Reports were prepared for the present number, but they have been crowded out, in consequence of the superior claims for insertion of the Telegraphic Reports.

Copy-Right.

We learn from an article in *Blackwood's Magazine*, that the proprietors of that popular journal have succeeded in obtaining a compensation for their copy-right, from the publishers of the reprints at New York. The way in which this has been accomplished is this: A person on the American side of the Atlantic writes an article for insertion in the *Magazine*, and secures the copy-right according to the laws of the State of New York; consequently it cannot be re-printed in New York without a violation of the law. The first experiment has been made with success; and the American publishers of the re-prints have been compelled to pay for the copy-right. This step will most likely be introductory to a similar process in relation to the Periodical Reviews, and will no doubt lead to a settlement of the question of international copy-right generally.

Duel between a Judge and a Magistrate!

The Kingston papers report that a duel has taken place between Mr. ARMSTRONG, a Judge, and Major SADLEIR, a Magistrate of the Midland District. Here we have two samples of the sort of characters that in the days of Tory supremacy were selected for public officers. After the system of committing murder by duelling has been driven from its once favourite lurking places, the Army and Navy, in which services it was once thought that there ought to exist a species of honour that would not suffer an officer to receive an insult without intending or committing murder to resent it. After this notion has been exploded, and the practice denounced from the highest authority, it seems that Canada is to be degraded by the continuation of the infamous practice. Every duellist is a murderer, in intent, if not in fact, and we would just as soon see a couple of the incarcerated felons from the Provincial Penitentiary appointed the one a Judge and the other a Magistrate, as to see those duellists continue to fill their respective offices, and we have no doubt that the people of Canada are nearly unanimous on this question; the dissentients could perhaps be duellists if they had the chance.

Monopoly, Despotism, and Humbug!

On a former occasion the conduct of the Directors of the Telegraph line, connecting Toronto with Hamilton and London, was reported in this journal. We did not say a tithe of what might justly be said of the whole transaction. The *Dundas Warder* has well exposed the imposition practised on the contributors to the London line, between Hamilton and London. A contract was fairly made, that Dundas, Brantford, Woodstock and London, should each contribute a specific sum towards the stock of the Company. They did so; and before they could reap the benefit, the communication is cut off at Hamilton, because Messrs. Brown (of the *Globe*) and Scobie, (of the *Colonist*), have contracted with the Directors to stop the communication at Hamilton; that all further Western Reports should be made only at their bidding, and in favour of those who would pay them most for the same.

Setting aside, for the present, the extreme selfishness of those contractors, we contend that the Directors have no right to shut up their communication to any that are willing to pay for it. The Telegraph communication was established for a public benefit, as much as a Canal or a Railroad, and not for a monopoly for private individuals. At fair prices, we contend that every individual ought to have the benefit of it. It is not the price that is in question: if one shilling will not pay the Directors, let them double the charge, and the public will not complain, until they find that an exhorbitant profit is realized. But for them to say to all persons West of Hamilton, "You must be tributaries to Brown and Scobie—we have let it to them," is what will never be submitted to.

But we must not lose sight of the immorality of the act on the part of the Directors and contractors. The latter are quite willing to sell the communications; but it is, "what will you give?" Here is a temptation. A few only will give an enormous price, and they will do so in order to turn it to their own advantage. Let us suppose, then, a few persons in Hamilton paying for exclusive information—what will they do, but keep it close, and go and speculate in grain and flour with persons less favoured? Here, then, is a set of swindlers sent out into the country to take advantage of their ignorant fellow countrymen. For we maintain, that in a moral view of the case, if a person knows that the markets have risen, and he buys at a lower price in consequence of his neighbour's ignorance—or that they have fallen, and he sells at a higher price than he could obtain if the true state of the market was known—he is a swindler, and nothing less. How much better for morality, and for the pockets of the farmers, would it be, that the old slow communication was restored, and the Telegraph posts cut down and burnt from one end of the line to the other?

The Directors who make such contracts are more to blame than these selfish and contemptible contractors. They are parties to this immorality, and to this plundering of the less informed farmers who have to seek a market for their produce. If the Directors will not listen to reason—if they will not yield to justice and equity, and give equal advantages at equal rates to all—we would suggest, as one attempt at a remedy, that the names of all parties paying for exclusive reports should be published, and that the public should be cautioned to have no dealings with them; for the only use they can make of their exclusive advantage, is to sell when the market has fallen, and to buy when it has risen, when in both cases the buyer and seller respectively are ignorant of the real state of the market. If this is not swindling, let any one tell us what it is, if he can.

The *Long Point Advocate* of the 24th ult. makes the following remarks, on the occasion of a Missionary Meeting of the Wesleyan Methodist Missionary Society, held at Simcoe on the 15th ult.:—

"The uncalled for interference of a portion of the Methodist Ministry in matters foreign to the duties of their sacred calling has, as might have been reasonably anticipated, and as we confidently predicted, produced results, the contemplation of which is truly painful to every sincere friend of Methodism. The amount received at the conclusion of the exercises fell far short of any previous collection—the whole being, as we are credibly informed, something in the vicinity of *thirteen dollars!* Alas! how is the fine gold become dim. How are the labours and the struggles of the devoted and self-sacrificing originators of Canadian Methodism nullified by the wilful and self-destroying influences of some of their degenerate successors!"

At a Tea Meeting held subsequently, the same journal reports that among the speeches delivered, all of which, with one exception, gave great satisfaction,—that exception was a speech of the Rev. Edwy Ryerson, of Brantford, in which he made an attack on the Press, charging it with supporting infidelity. Of course that attack only applied to that portion of the Provincial Press which had opposed the partition scheme of the University, as advocated in the *Christian Guardian*.

We agree with the *Long Point Advocate*, that in no country in the world is this charge less applicable than to the Canadian Press of either political party. It is therefore unfair, if not unjust, to give a political question so much of a religious character as to present it as a contest between Christians and Infidels. Those who do so know well that they have no foundation for so doing.—Where, then, is there most infidelity?—We should say, where there is no regard paid to truth and justice.

The following are the remarks of the *Long Point Advocate* on the occasion:—

"The Rev. Edwy M. Ryerson, of Brantford spoke last, and if we should say that he would, to some extent, have saved his credit by remaining silent, we would only express the feelings of a large majority of the meeting. Mr. Ryerson appeared to have stood up for the double purpose of chastising the members of the Press, and inducing his hearers to believe that by sustaining it they were opposing Christianity, and contributing to the extension of infidelity. The Editors of the *Standard* and *Advocate* were present by special invitation. Considering that circumstance alone, Mr. Ryerson might have dispensed with his uncalled for remarks, more particularly so, as no opportunity was afforded those insulted in the presence of a public assemblage, to enter into a refutation of the accusations brought against the profession to which they belong. We have heard that Mr. Ryerson disclaims any intention of offending either of these parties. We know that his remarks were general, but they were, in our opinion, no less censurable on that account. The charge of a tendency to infidelity is a most foul and unjust one, as against the Press of Canada of either party. It is true that one section of it approved of a settlement of the University question on principles which Mr. Ryerson and others *now* affect to look upon as infidel in their character and tendency, but it is equally true that four years ago the leaders of the Methodist Church publicly approved of this plan of settlement, on the ground of its having for its foundation a Christian basis. Mr. Ryerson should be careful how he permits his disappointed feelings to lead him into unjustifiable attacks upon a whole community."

The Provincial Penitentiary.

The following is from the *Kingston Chronicle and News*, a Conservative paper. It is gratifying to find it calling for an investigation into the state of this Institution; but may we not ask, why the Conservative journals did not insist upon this when it was so loudly called for during the last Session of Parliament? But now that a Reform Ministry are expected to be in office, all the work must be gathered up for them which their predecessors have neglected; and if it be not all done—and that will be all but impossible in one Session—a charge will no doubt be brought against them of neglecting the business of the country.

"Fifteen years have now elapsed since the erection of the Penitentiary was determined upon. The question of prison discipline was, shortly previous to the commencement of that period, forced upon the attention of the Government and people of Upper Canada, by the prominency given to it on the other side of the Atlantic, and by the visit of French Commissioners to the United States, with the view of examining and reporting upon the operation of the American Penitentiary systems. The Auburn plan was determined upon by our Legislature as preferable to that to which Philadelphia had given its name, and the Penitentiary here was formed upon it. An American prison disciplinarian was selected and induced to take charge of the new prison, and the institution commenced an existence.

"The machine having been put in motion, and liberal grants of money made for keeping it in action, the Legislature appears to have considered its own duty at an end, for beyond the formal annual reports of the Board of Inspectors, it has sought for no information as to the success of its experiment in prison discipline and management. It has never attempted to ascertain how far the working of the Auburn system, or that which is so called, has justified its choice in the original selection; whether the government of the institution has been in accordance with the spirit of that system, or not; or whether experience in other countries has not pointed out a still more excellent method of punishing and attempting the reformation of criminals.

"And yet it seems to us that, quite independent of facts which we are about to lay before the public, bearing upon the state of discipline in the Penitentiary, there are variances between the results obtained in American prisons and in our own, sufficiently striking to command attention and to evoke inquiry. Let us just now take one of the most prominent. It is a well known fact that the American Penitentiaries are made, by the labour of their inmates, not only to pay the whole cost of management, purchase of materials, &c., but to yield large profits, and to become sources of income to the States in which they exist. Thus, by a report before us on the Ohio Penitentiary, we find the earnings of the year, over and above its expenses, to be $20,037, of which $19,000 were paid into the Treasury, as per Treasurer's receipt; and this over and above work performed in the extension of the prison, equal to 3,441 days. What is our case in comparison with this? The grants of Parliament in behalf of the Penitentiary here amount in the aggregate to about £125,000, *or half a million of dollars;* and this enormous expenditure has taken place, it must be borne in mind, in addition to that of the accumulated earnings of the prison; the value of the labour expended upon the buildings excepted. Then what have we to put on the contra side of the account? The Penitentiary buildings are worth somewhere about £80,000—that is, a contractor, estimating for their construction in the ordinary way, would so value the work. But this is not the estimate which we are to take under the actual circumstances of the case. There is a vast difference between the cost of erecting a building at 10d. a day, and that which ranges from 3s. to 7s. 6d. Yet, taking a higher figure for convict labour—say 1s. 10½d., which is the American value—when we put these buildings on the credit side of the account at £45,000, we have ample room and verge enough to meet any cavil. The property returned by the Warden as belonging to the Institution, in the shape of tools, &c., is valued at £4,000. Put these two sums together, and we have £49,000, or say £50,000 in exchange for our £125,000. The cost of maintenance has therefore been £75,000 above all earnings; which, spread over fifteen years, gives an average expenditure of £5,000, for which it has been necessary to draw upon the public purse.

"The comparison of the working of the system by our neighbours and ourselves stands therefore thus, employing the illustration already given:—The Ohio Penitentiary *contributes* $20,000 to the public Treasury; the Canadian *draws* a like amount from it!

"Now, it will hardly be said that there is any such similarity of result from the pecuniary man-