Huron Signal.

GODERICH, FEB. 8, 1866.

What is the object of the Fenians?

Of all the conspiracies ever set afloat, we think the Fenian movement has given rise to the greatest amount of senseless bombast. The arch-agitators know full well that *reason*, considering the material they have to work upon, is the poorest tool they could employ, hence their frothy appeals to the very worst passions of which degraded human nature is capable of harboring. They must know that any efforts put forth by a people who are *de facto* citizens of another state against an established Government, such as that of Britain, will be futile, and yet they talk wildly of being able, as soon as they have sent out a few privateers, to reduce the mistress of the seas to bankruptcy in six months! The heads of the conspiracy are aware of this, but their fanatical adherents do not, and this as the London *Times* truly remarks, is the source of Fenian vitality. In ordinary attempts of the kind, where the leaders are thwarted their followers, if blest with ordinary intelligence, succumb at once,—as in the Cabbage-garden affair of '48, but it requires no great amount of executive ability to gull servant girls and navies, and hence, when one set of Fenian heads is disposed of there is not the the slightest difficulty in finding others ready and willing to make blood-thirsty speeches and enjoy the "slashin's of atin an dhrinkin'" supplied supplied to them from the hard earnings of the hardest working race in America. If the object of the Fenians as to the conquest of Ireland is indefinite, it is still more so with regard to their proposed attack upon Canada. We, in this free country, have certainly never done them the slightest injury. We tolerate their religion—we extend to them, (we mean of course, Catholic Irishmen) the fullest rights and privileges that could be desired, and we offer to them the means of securing a home of comfort and contentment, but in as much as we profess allegiance to the mother country, it seems to be their object to attack us. Why? In order that the Brotherhood may have a spot upon which to hoist the green flag, obtain recognition from the United States as as belligerents, send out their privateers, and then, as Sweeney Roberts & Co. say, "good by England!" These doughty leaders say very little about one or two important facts: *They must act upon the offensive*, and they will have to meet a brave, hardy people, determined to defend their homes and stand up nobly for their cherished institutions. If any thing could unite Canadians into one grand, solid phalanx, it would be such an iniquitous invasion as that proposed by the Fenians. If we know our weakness and the harm that might be done us, we know also, that but one sentiment is breathed from Sandwich to Quebec—a stern determination to give the foe a hot reception the moment his foot rests upon our soil. The American government cannot, without, violating the most sacred of International obligations, suffer an organized army of Fenians to leave the United States to attack a country with which she now holds friendly relations, and if we are worthy of of our ancestors we should be able to cope with all the filibustors who can be scraped together.

THE CONTRAST.

Let annexationists and other admirers of American Institutions, who are in the habit of comparing disadvantageously our own position with that of our neighbors, and who make broad assertions as to the freedom of real estate and farm property from taxation, read the following from the Report of the Revenue Commissioner of the United States

"When the tax upon income was first imposed, an exemption of $600 upon the annual gains, profits or earnings of every person was allowed. This was deemed sufficient at that time to enable a small family to procure the bare necessaries of life; but with the large increase in the cost of living, there was not a corresponding advance in the receipts of those receiving but small incomes. As the purchasing power of $600 was fully equal at that time to $1,000 now, it wou'd be, in the opinion of the commission, an act of justice, as well as of sound public policy, to extend the limit of the sum exempted. They therefore recommend that, in the future assessment of incomes, $1,000 be exempted from taxation."

After the war had been carried on for a year or so it was estimated by those who imposed the income tax that it required $600 to enable a *small family* to procure the bare necessaries of life—a *small family* mark you—now, after the war is over, it takes $1000 to buy as much as $600, therefore it takes a *small family* $1000 to procure the bare necessaries of life! A nice country, truly, to be united to. Many who are living in Canada in comfort would according to this report be starving in the States.

Study what the same report says on real estate and mark the concluding words—"The burden in every case becoming more and more severe with every step in the direction of appreciation in the gold value of the currency in which the taxes must be paid."

The burden of taxation is now, undoubtedly, at its maximum, and the pressure of local taxation increased to pay the interest on local war expenditures is, probably, more severely felt than even the burden of national taxation, inasmuch as the general government has taken to itself nearly every source of revenue, except the single one of real estate, which has been before burdened with large expenditures for schools, roads, and other matters with which the local governments stand charged. Cases can be cited in which taxation upon real estate even now falls but little short of confiscation; and in others, where property has been but partially improved, the demands for the several classes of taxes absorb nearly the whole receipts derived from it—the burden in every case becoming more and more severe with every step in the direction of appreciation in the gold value of the currency in which the taxes must be paid."

THE FENIANS.

During the past few days there has been considerable excitement along the frontier, caused by certain mysterious military and railway movements indicative of an apprehended raid by the Fenians. Our government has received information, it seems, that the misguided fools urged on to plunder and rapine by such men as Sweeney, actually contemplate a descent on the frontier, and every precaution has been taken to give the rascals a hot reception should they dare to cross the frontier. We think there is no great danger to be apprehended, but if a party does come along, the worst wish every loyal man amongst us feels is that not one of them may return alive. In another place we give all the particulars we can gather from our contemporaries.

BRING IT IN.

There is, doubtless, a good deal of grain in the Northern townships still unsold. Some few farmers may be holding on for a rise in the market, but the great majority are waiting for better sleighing. The prices, in our opinion, are not likely to be higher, and the chances are that there will be a decided fall after the 17th of March, when the Reciprocity Treaty expires. Hence, every exertion should be made use of by our farmers to hurry forward their surplus produce at the earliest possible moment. We are assured by Mr. Brydges that it is his desire to transport every car-load that the Grand Trunk can carry, and there is every reason to believe that a large saving will be effected by "taking time by the forelock."

MAD DOG.—We understand that a mad dog passed through our streets a few days ago, and bit a large number of the curs in town. Great caution should be exercised, by those who have any reason to fear that their dogs were bitten.

☞ Ira Lewis, Esq., County Attorney for Huron and Bruce, has been appointed a member of the Committee for getting up a grand dinner to the Attorney-Gen. West, on Thursday next, 8th inst. Members of the profession here, who may wish to be present, on application to Mr. Lewis, will be put in possession of all particulars.

TAKING CHANGE.—A Sunday or two ago, as the officers of one of the largest churches in this town were engaged in taking up the ordinary collection, a man dropped 10cts into the box and quietly rummaged with his fingers until he found his change—a five cent piece—which he pocketed amid the ill-suppressed laughter of those who witnessed the ludicrous scene.

OUR BANKS.

No. 3.

In our last we attempted to illustrate by an example, one of the many causes that led so frequently to the harsh, and apparently uncalled for, interferences between the Mother Bank and its agencies; we do not wish to have it understood that we believe there are no occasions on which the Mother Bank is bound in self-defence to put a check upon its agencies: we know many such. What we do assert is that these instructions are very frequently the result, not of losses sustained at this or that agency, but of the kind indicated in our illustration. The effect of these fluctuations at the agencies is most disastrious to all country business men; no amount of prudence in a merchant doing business either at Guelph, London or at any one of the many place throughout the Province, where Bank agencies exist, can protect him against the effect of such an operation as that shown up in our last, and so long as our banks shall continue their present system of sacrificing the agencies to make up or cover over the losses sustained at headquarters, so long must the Province, if we are to go on under our present financial rules, be subjected to fluctuations little less destructive than the commercial panics that have so frequently swept over England and the United States.

In the conversation between Mr. D. and Mr. E., reference was made to the effect of the raising, by the Bank of England, of its rate of interest, produced on the operations of Mr. D. We now propose to explain its working, as many will be inclined to wonder how the raising of interest in England could prejudice us in Canada. When the alteration in the Usury Laws of England took place, the Bank and all other monied institutions were freed from any fixed rate of interest; unlike our Banks, which are limited to seven per cent; they can charge what they like or what prudence and the state of the money market suggests they ought to do. This right, under the very able management of the Bank of England has done more to stop undue commercial speculation than anything else, and it is to this power of raising the interest we believe we may impute the very limited extent to which some of the late panics that have taken place in the United States have effected England. It works thus: men in England and elsewhere form their calculations that the supply, we will suppose of grain, will be deficient, and that the amount to meet a short harvest in England will have to be large. The crops of the Western States of the United States ripen much before those of England or the North of Europe; speculators rush to Chicago for the purpose of purchasing grain, and, as we have shown, not alone with United States capital or with English capital, (the country that is supposed to be about to suffer from a short harvest) but also with Canadian Banking capital, the capital of a country that within a fortnight of the ripening of the grain of the Western States will have its population in full swing securing the harvest of Western Canada. In the meantime, every nerve of the speculator is stretched to the utmost to hurry forward the products of the Western States to the seaboard. Freights rise, and everything is prosperous in the Western States; money plenty; Canadian money, as we have ourselves seen it, pressed on parties to be used for the purpose of buying grain, the holders of it apparently as anxious to get rid of it as if it were a Western wild cat. Drafts on England for grain shipments flow in fast and heavy—a very sensible effect is produced on the gold held in the vaults of the Bank of England, and alarmists begin to fancy they see something very awful to happen at no distant period. Now comes the action of the Bank of England, that great financial pendulum: at first it is only intimated that the Bank is about to raise its rate of interest, this hint is thrown out in the hope that speculators will take warning; not so, many are too deeply engaged to stop, on they must go. The public are informed that the Bank has raised its rate of interest, say, to seven per cent; the drain on the Bank still continues, up goes interest to ten per cent, and no one can tell what will be the next move of the Bank. Money can no longer be had under ten per cent; grain speculation cannot stand this; the news flys to America; down goes the value of grain at Chicago—down go freights, and the reverse falls, not on the agriculturists of the Western States, our opponents, they have sold all they had to spare—all has been rushed into market during the grain mania, but on the grain speculators, on the Banks of Canada, and, worst of all, on the hard-working deserving, but unfortunate, agriculturists of Western Canada, who are made to suffer from the abuse of the capital that has been raised in and for the use of their own country. During the rush for produce made in the markets of his opponents, the agriculturist of Canada has secured his harvest, his crops are good, but, alas, the capital that ought to be at hand to assist in taking them to market is nowhere to be found in Canada; it is to be found in the pockets of the farmers of the Western States, and its representative is locked up in the elevators and wheat storehouses of Chicago and Milwaukie. There are too many Mr. D's. on the books of the several Bank managers; Canada and its interests are sacrificed to the greed of its own monied institutions. Is this always to be the case?

Seaforth.

"L."—Not a copy of *Signal* left after filling orders. Very sorry we can't accommodate you.

COUNTY SCHOOL CONVENTION.

In accordance with the notice previously given, a County School Convention was held by Dr. Ryerson, Chief Superintendent of Education for Upper Canada, in the Victoria Hall, Goderich, on Saturday afternoon, the 27th January. A large number of local superintendents, trustees, teachers and others interested in education, from all parts of the county were present.

J. V. Detlor, Esq., Major, was appointed to preside, and Duff Cameron, Esq., chosen as secretary.

The Rev. Dr. then addressed the meeting at some length, and his interesting statements and remarks were duly appreciated by the respectable and intelligent audience, after which he stated that any one desiring further information were now at liberty to ask any questions. Several embraced the opportunity and got the information required.

It was moved by Mr. H. D. Cameron, seconded by Mr. P. McDonald, and resolved, That the educational interests of our country would be promoted by appointing one Board of Trustees for each township.

The motion was put to the meeting and carried by a large majority.

It was moved by Mr. R. McShea, seconded by Mr. P. McDonald, and resolved, That the Township Board consist of Trustees elected by the ratepayers of the Township, and that it be distinct from the Township Council.—Carried unanimously.

It was moved by Mr. Mackid, seconded by Mr. D. Kerr, jr., and resolved, That this meeting recommend that the municipal councils be invested with power to bring to account and punish by fine, or otherwise, parents who do not send their children between seven and twelve years of age to some school at least four months in the year.—Carried, with only one dissenting voice.

It was moved by Mr. H. D. Cameron, seconded by Mr. Neilles, and unanimously agreed, That this meeting approves of the suggestion of the Chief Superintendent as to the composition of examiners for the County.

It was moved by Mr. Archibald Dewar, seconded by Mr. A. Molesworth, and agreed to by the meeting, That it would add to the efficiency of our schools to have county superintendence instead of the present system.

A note of thanks was then proposed and unanimously presented to Dr. Ryerson for his very able and instructive address, and the valuable information he communicated.

At the close of the Convention held by Dr. Ryerson on Saturday afternoon, the following address of the Huron Teachers' Association was read by Mr. Cameron, the President. The officers of the Association were also present when the address was read.

The address is engrossed on thick paper by Mr. McDonald, the secretary of the Association, in the most elegant and artistic style.

ADDRESS,

To the Rev. E. Ryerson, D. D., L. L. D., Chief Superintendent of Education for Upper Canada. From the Huron Teachers' Association.

REV. SIR,—We, in behalf of the Huron Teachers' Association, gladly embrace the present opportunity of giving expression, in the simple form of an address, to our sincere respect for you as the head and originator of our noble common school system; and also to the due appreciation, on our part, of your conduct and constant endeavors both to place within the reach of all a system of sound elementary instruction, and to ameliorate the condition and elevate the status of the Teacher.

A comparison between the character of the Public Schools now established in Canada, and that of those in existence previous to the commencement of your labors as Chief Superintendent of Education, unfolds at once the inestimable boon which you have conferred upon Canadian youth in the thorough revision and reconstruction of our system of common schools.

Your official tours have ever been hailed by us as indicative of a more liberal and efficient means about to be employed to meet the growing educational necessities of our country; and also as a manifestation of that lively interest which you have always shown in developing a system of common school education superior, perhaps, in some respects, to any on the continent.

It is our privilege as Teachers of Common Schools to lend our humble aid in imparting to the young that elementary instruction which, from its high moral tone, is destined to contribute materially to the permanence of our national prosperity, and we are convinced you will join in our earnest prayer that all classes and conditions of our population may ere long be embraced within the beneficial influences of that enlightened system of general education which, under your fostering and enlightened guidance, has been so successfully established in this Province.

So convinced are we that the young of our fair Province should have their minds thoroughly imbued with a commendable national pride, that we cannot refrain from expressing, in a special manner, the satisfaction we feel in the exclusion from our Public Schools of all books anti-British in their tendency.

As this is perhaps the last opportunity we may have of addressing you, we again thank you for your efforts in behalf of education and sincerely trust that peace, happiness and prosperity may attend you during the remainder of your earthly pilgrimage, and that your name may always maintain that honorable niche in the annals of our country it so well deserves.

Dated January 27, 1866.

(Signed.)

H. D. CAMERON, President. ARCH. DEWAR, 1st V President.
ROYAL McSHEA, 2nd Vice President. A. MOLESWORTH, Treasurer.
PETER McDONALD, Secretary.

REPLY.

GENTLEMEN,—I thank you with all my heart for your address.

Knowing as I do that the Teacher makes the school, I should not be a friend to the efficiency and progress of the schools did I not do all in my power to elevate the character and position of the Teachers. Much has been done in this respect already; but much more still remains to be done; and while nothing shall be wanting on my part to promote the improved position and remuneration of Teachers, I feel, after all, that much depends upon the conduct and exertions of Teachers themselves for the advancement and interests of their profession.

In that course of improvement you have set a noble example; and I think you will here after share largely in its rewards, in the satisfaction of having done your duty, of witnessing the greater devotion and usefulness of your profession, and in the wider diffusion and higher elevation of education throughout Upper Canada.

E. RYERSON.

Goderich, Jan. 27, 1866.

PERSONAL.—Mr. Brydges, Mr. Stevenson, Mr. Barnard, and other Grand Trunk notables, paid Goderich a flying visit on Tuesday night, and Wednesday morning last, on business, we presume, connected with the road. Mr. Detlor and others called upon them, but the shortness of their stay prevented anything like a public reception.

BAD SLEIGHING.—We are still suffering in Goderich for want of good sleighing. Out a mile or two the snow lies deep enough, but every farmer who is tempted to bring out a heavy load meets with great difficulty in entering this place. The effect of this state of things upon business is depressing, but we hope very soon to see a change for the better.

☞ We understand that the Registrar of the county went before Hugh Johnston, Esq., for the purpose of preferring charges against certain clergymen for that they had failed to comply with the requirements of the statute to making returns of the marriages performed by them for the past year. At Mr. Johnston's request, Mr. Galt agreed to further delay, Mr. Johnston kindly undertaking to write the parties. Mr. Galt complains very much of the careless, negligent manner the duty is performed, stating that some of the clergy actually cut leaves from their marriage books (thus destroying them as records) on which to make returns. If we had it not on such authority we could hardly have believed that any persons, not to say educated men, could be guilty of such an act. All clergymen can be supplied with forms without charge on application to the Clerk of the Peace.

EXTENSIVE HORSE-THIEVING.

THE ROBBER NABBED.

A man named Johnson stole a horse and saddle from a farmer named Armstrong, residing near Richmond Hill, Co. York, some three weeks ago, and struck for the County of Bruce by way of Guelph, at which place he picked up another hopeful named Morris. The pair stole a cutter on the road, which they sold at Ennniskillen, Co. Bruce. When they reached Kincardine, suspicions were aroused and constables sent after the rascals. Morris was arrested at Mrs. McPherson's, but Johnson escaped and was afterwards caught at Dungannon. The two were taken to Kincardine, examined before the magistrates, and sent to Goderich gaol, from whence they were taken to Toronto last week to await trial. Johnson is a notorious thief, and is known to have stolen at least forty horses within the last few months. He will, no doubt, have ample time to turn over in his mind the celebrated maxim, "honesty is the best policy."

PRO. COUNCIL BRUCE.

The Provisional Council of Bruce met at Walkerton on Monday, Jan. 29th. There were three candidates for the Wardenship: Messrs. Gillies, Rastall and Broeelbank, the latter being elected for the third time by a majority of three over his opponents. There was quite a contest about the Clerkship. Mr. Gould having resigned, there were applications for the office from Messrs. Fraser, Jamieson, Savage, McLellan and Corrigan. The vote was in favor of Messrs. Fraser and Savage, as against the other three, but repeated votes resulted in a tie between them—11 each—and Mr. Gould was continued *pro tem.* We learn, from the local press that Mr. Hosery's report upon the new gaol differed from that of Mr. Ferres, and that he has raised no less than twenty-five objections thereto, which, of course, places the building committee in a most awkward dilemma. Complaints are made against the architect, who is not present at the works. The committee are said to be completely at the mercy of Mr. Elliott, the contractor, and altogether things appear to wear a most uncompromising aspect. One thing is pretty certain, if the gaol is not very soon passed to the satisfaction of the inspectors, it will be all but impossible for the separation to be consummated before January next. It really seems hard that the unfortunate ratepayers of the County should be compelled to suffer the expense and annoyance of further delay, but it may be considered unavoidable under the circumstances.

It is estimated, says the London Times, that about three hundred thousand fat cattle, representing about ninety thousand tons of beef, are taken from our annual supply. But it is also estimated that eighty thousand tons of fish of the larger and finer kinds enter into the yeas consumption, independently of sprats, herrings and shell fish. There is reason, therefore, to rejoice at the announcement that, if the supply of beef should be diminished that of fish is not likely to fail.

To the Editor of the HURON SIGNAL:

SIR,—In the issue of the *Semi-Weekly Signal* of the 26th ult., I see a communication signed "a ratepayer of School Section, No. 6, Morris," in which article the writer has labored strenously and hard to pile insult, slander, falsehood and abuse upon one, Mr. Editor, who, in the least, is not worthy of a single epithit. And judging from the sterling character of the *Signal* and you who have charge of the same, I am led to wonder that you should ever insert such an article from any correspondent against the moral character of an individual, against which I defy my enemies, if I have any, to sully in the smallest degree. As the article is now before the public, I trust, as I know you would not wish to injure any one, you will give me the privilege of a reply.

In the first place, my character is at stake, and I know that you have at all times manifested a desire to improve the standing of the Common School Teacher in the County, and from this fact I am persuaded that I have in you a friend that will show, at any rate, *fair play*. In justification of my character I may say that I was a resident of the Village of Bluevale for some 18 months, in which village I attended school first with Mr. T. Farrow, and afterwards with Mr. M. Hutchinson, both gentlemen can and will testify that during my terms of tuition that my conduct was strictly good and that I was diligent and studious even in the extreme. My object was above everything else to obtain a good education. For this I labored hard night and day, and I am thankful that I have gained my object. Also the gentleman with whom I boarded, Mr. W. H. Leech, mill proprietor, Bluevale, can testify to the same fact, and if necessary a host of others—men of truth and position. I now trust that so far as my moral character is at stake that the public will see the matter in its true light. While I was attending school at Bluevale I was induced to attend the public examination of teachers at Goderich, in the month of August, 1865, when I obtained qualifications to teach a common school. My certificate was signed by Messrs. Watson, Carroll and Ritchie. So that when your correspondent says that I am an unqualified teacher, and argues that in consequence the school can draw no government money, he says that which is not true. A great deal of *buncom* is made out of the class of such certificate, and your correspondent says that the Teacher, Mr. Wilson, said he had a second class and *they took his word for it*. Now I deny the charge, I say positively that they saw the certificate before I hired with them and signed their names to my agreement. Accidents will sometimes occur to the best of men, and I am sorry to say that I got my certificate defaced, more or less, by an ink bottle being upset, and the contents poured over it. This made it in a great measure illegible, especially as to the grade and many other things, but as regards its denomination originally is given, whether it was a mistake of the secretary or not, or what was the intention of the Board, I know not, but this I know, my certificate was marked second class. I am charged with taking possession of the school house, but I may here state that possession was given to me, and the written notice calling the annual meeting was given me to put up.

But above all, Sir, I am represented as a gough, raw, sarcastic Irishman carrying a blackgeon maintaining forcible possession of a house against the wishes of all. This would lead, to say the least of it, to effect any one that had any regard to his standing in society—when the truth fact is, I was in the habit of being at the S. H. half an hour before the time to have the house properly warmed and comfortable for the children and as the Trustees had provided no light wood for kindling the fire I was taking for that purpose a piece of cedar wood. Mr. Editor can you *conceive* of anything, better calculated than this to hurt the reputation of a man—who has done no one any hurt, and it shows to what extent some individuals will go in order to vent their ire and spite. I say to the individual "Repent of this thy wickedness" &c.

Bear with me a little, Mr. Editor, for I feel that I am an injured man. The cause of all may be said in a few words. Feud is the result of the whole. In the Section there is an Irish party and a Scotch.—The difference between the two were heightened by the election of Councillmen in said Ward. The Irish party was victorious. Soon some of the party said I should not teach their children for I should soon teach them *Irish*, a language I was never able to lisp.—It is a pity that intelligent men should let such a spirit grow by being cherished and fostered in them and taught to the coming generation.

I confess I am an Irishman—neither do I wish to hide or choke it, but hope and trust that I always may maintain that consistency of character as to bring no disgrace on the country that gave me birth. I respect the flag that "for a thousand years has braved the battle and the breeze."

One individual of the party, I know went so far as to say "Put me in trustee and I will drive him out." They put him in—and accordingly on the 23d ultimo he and another closed the School House door so that I was shut out to the winds and the weather irrespective of consequences. Hired another teacher, set *him* to work in my room and stead. Satisfied no doubt if they could see me brought down to beg my bread from door to door. But as one of old said "They are honourable men" and "He's an honourable man."

I leave this justification of myself to the public, not having an honest criticism there on—and Mr. Editor I beg your pardon for being so lengthy, I would have cut it shorter had I been able.

WILLIAM WILSON.

GODERICH TOWNSHIP.

A very successful little Missionary meeting was held in the Zion (Wesleyan) Church, on Monday evening last. Notwithstanding the storm a goodly number of people turned out. Addresses were delived by Revs. R. Whiting, R. Shaw and one or two lay men from Goderich. The collection and subscriptions taken up gave good promise of this neighborhood going considerably beyond the amount raised last year. Votes of thanks were passed to the chairman and to Miss McCulloch, the collector of last year. Miss Anne Taylor and Miss Campbell were appointed collectors for the present year.

USBORNE.

SUDDEN DEATH.—On Tuesday, the 30th ult., the wife of Mr. Wm. Brown, of this township died very suddenly. In the morning, when her husband was getting up, she suddenly exclaimed, "I don't feel well," and before Mr. Brown could reach the bedside she was a corpse Deceased leaves behind her a large family of small children.

LUCKNOW.

SOIREE.—On Wednesday evening last soiree under the auspices of the N. C. Methodists, was held in Mr. Campbell's new store building. The attendance was very large, many persons turning away disappointed after the room had been crowded so that it was almost impossible for the waiters to get around with the tea and cakes.

Dr. Tennant, of Lucknow, discharged the duties of chairman in a very able manner.

Addresses were delivered by Rev'ds. Messrs. Shaw, Walker, and other clergymen, and by Messrs. W. T. Cox and S. P. Yeomans.

A select choir from Goderich, led by Mr. James Thomson, gave a number of pieces of music in good style.

THE CHURCHMAN'S FAMILY MAGAZINE.—We are indebted to W. C. Chewett & Co., Toronto, for the January number of this periodical. The contents are as follows:—On Dogmatic Theology; Our Clerical Club; A Christmas Medley; Cicely Blount's Visit to Scarborough, and what came of it; Plain Words on Biblical Criticism, (Article II.); A Christmas Rose; Richard Hooker, "the Judicious," (with a portrait); Good Manners; Christmas Emblems; Christ Church Days, an Oxford story; A Thought for the New Year. For the current year, the conductors of the "Churchman" promise several new attractions. In the field of dogmatic theology, there will be papers by the Rev. Messrs. Golburn, Meyrick, and Scriviner, all of their names held in esteem by good Churchmen; contributions on ecclesiastical and parish matters, by the Rev. Messrs. Kempe, Rector of St. James's, Piccadilly; Mackenzie, Walcott, and E. L. Cutts. The Rev. R. St. John Tyrwhitt will continue his "Sketches in the Desert." Among the contributors will be found Mr. Timbs, Mr. Astley Baldwin, the Hon. Mrs. Gifford, Dr. Lankester, Mr. Edward Wilberforce, and others.

LONDON SOCIETY, to hand from the same enterprising firm, is just as beautiful as ever—well written and splendidly illustrated.

GODEY for February comes to us filled with valuable domestic recipes, light reading, and copious illustrations of the fashions of the day.

All of the above may be procured at the *Signal Office Bookstore*.

AINLEYVILLE.

January 30th, 1866.

To the Editor of the HURON SIGNAL:

Last evening a large and influential meeting was held in the North American Hotel, Ainleyville, for the purpose of considering and discussing the propriety of forming an Oil Company in this village. The meeting was ably addressed by several gentlemen, more or less experienced in oil digging, and from the fact that oil indications exhibit themselves in various localities in the neighbourhood, together with the geological position and croppings along the Maitland River, there is the strongest reason to believe, that should the experiment be tried in a proper and scientific manner, there is little doubt that Ainleyville will become the Petrolia of Western Canada. Much caution was observed both by the speakers and the audience, as to venturing on a speculation which might ultimately to a outa fortune or a loss; and whilst several gentlemen expressed themselves prepared to take stock in such a Company, it was considered prudent to have the assistance of a person fully experienced in such matters, to prospect the different localities, and give his opinions as to the propriety of the undertaking; which this very, assistance was at once agreed upon to pay the expenses of such a party, and a committee organized to confer with Geo. Ellis, Esq., of London, and if satisfied with the report, to commence operations the opening of which will be a boon to all concerned in Ainleyville. At present the prospects are very encouraging, and if the indications now felt on the spot be not deceitful, there is no doubt of the happy issue being realized. I shall write again when your readers may be interested in the matter.

Yours,

HOPEFUL.

The New Medical Bill.

SIR,—It appears that nominations are already being made in pursuance of the above Act. As we have yet done nothing I would beg leave to propose a candidate for this Division, which includes Malahide and Tecumseth. On account of the apparent antagonism of the various Medical Schools, it is a pre-requisite that the candidate should be of known impartiality, and devoid of predilections in favor of any. I therefore propose Dr. Henry Coleof Clinton, as a fit and proper person to represent us. His ability as a practical Physician, and skill as an operative Surgeon are generally admitted in this County. His Alma Mater (Trinity Coll. Dub.) is a guarantee for the soundness of his theory; while his M. A., from the same Institution is ample security as to his literary qualifications. Always ready to acknowledge merit without asking from what College it comes, and by his standing and position placed above the suspicion of being unduly influenced; I think we will have difficulty in finding an equally suitable representative. Hoping that this matter may be properly considered, and that we may get the right man in the right place.

I remain yours, &c.,

MEDICUS.

American News.

The New York *Evening Post* of Friday last has a telegram from Washington to the following effect:—

"The ways and means committee had the reciprocity treaty under consideration this morning. Several prominent Canadians were present and submitted definite proposals for reciprocal legislation. It is now considered certain that trade will not be disarranged by the expiration of the treaty, and the necessary legislation will be granted."

New York, Feb. 3.—The *Herald's* special correspondent says: The Canadian Fenians have issued an address to the American Brotherhood, endorsing the O'Mahoney faction, declaring the true and only object of the movement to be the freedom of Ireland, and announcing the proposition to go to Ireland by way of Canada.

Buffalo, Feb. 3—The Fenians held a large meeting at the Opera House last evening. Important letters were read concerning the future movements of the Brotherhood. It was stated that prompt action was alone necessary. Another meeting will be held this evening.

Detroit, Feb. 3—At a meeting of the Detroit City Lodge of the Fenian Brotherhood resolutions were adopted condemning the Senate regarding the designs on Canada as unjust and detrimental to their cause; endorsing the action of the Convention in abolishing the Philadelphia Constitution, and declaring entire confidence in O'Mahoney.

Boston, Feb. 3—The steamer Africa has just been signalled she will be in about noon.

A Fast Race.

A most remarkable and alarming circumstance took place lately on the North eastern Railway, and it is a matter of sincere thankfulness that it was not attended with very serious consequences. Between two and three o'clock an engine and tender were at Leamsiae Junction, standing on the main line of rails, engineer and fireman being off them at the time. The fireman observed a goods train approaching on the same rails, and at once jumped on to the foot board to remove the engine out of the way. Before he had succeeded in doing more than giving it a start, however, the train had run into the engine, the collision knocking the fireman overboard. The engine thus set at liberty went off towards Newcastle at a fearful rate, some estimating the pace at about sixty miles an hour. The greatest alarm was in the first instance, caused among the officials at Leamside station, who saw that the occurrence might prove most fatal and destructive. They immediately telegraphed what had taken place to all the stations along the line, instructing the officials at Washington to dispatch an engine after the runaway. The greatest excitement was caused at each station as it flew past, with no one to regulate its speed. An engine was got ready as soon as posible and started in pursuit of the runaway. But the latter having got the start of about a mile, few expected that it would be overtaken before it rushed into Newcastle Station, or had done great havoc elsewhere. On reaching Felling Station, however it fortunately slackened its pace, the steam having blown off faster than it was generated, and it was come up with at Wash-house Lane, near Gateshead, after a run of about sixteen miles and one of the men jumped on the engine and turned off the steam. No one can say what damage it might have done had it not been overtaken; and indeed it seems marvellous that it should have run so far, and so fast without occasioning some casualty. It passed Pelaw Main station only a few minutes before the arrival of a passenger train from Sutherland and South Shields.

Foundering of the "London."

LOSS OF TWO HUNDRED AND FIFTY LIVES—TERRIBLE SCENES.

The steamship London, from London to Melbourne, has foundered at sea, with about 270 souls on board. The survivors—16 of the crew and 3 passengers—were landed at Falmouth on Jan. 16. The Western Mail gives the following account of the closing scene of this terrible disaster:

"It was at 10 o'clock in the morning of that fatal Thursday, that Capt. Martin had the terrible task of making known to the 200 passengers that the ship was sinking, and that they must prepare for the worst. She was then as low in the water as the main chains. The whole of the passengers and crew gathered, as with one consent in the chief saloon, and having been calmly told by Capt. Martin that there was no hope left, a remarkable and unanimous spirit of resignation came over them at once. There was no screaming or shrieking by women or men, no rushing on deck, or frantic cries. All calmly resorted to the saloon, where Rev. Mr. Draper, one of the passengers, prayed aloud and exorted the unhappy creatures by whom he was surrounded. Dismay was present to every heart, but disorder to none. Mothers were weeping sadly over the little ones about with them to be engulfed, and the children, ignorant of their coming death, were pitifully inquiring the cause of so much woe. Friends were taking leave of friends, as if preparing for a long journey; others were crouched down with Bibles in their hands, endeavoring to snatch consolation from passages long known or long neglected. Incredible, we are told, was the composure which, under such circumstances, reigned around. Capt. Martin, stationed himself in the poop, going occasionally forward or into the saloon; but to none could he offer a word of comfort by telling them that their safety was even probable. He joined now and then for a few moments in the public devotions, but his place to the last was on deck. About 2 o'clock in the afternoon, the water gaining fast on the ship and no signs of the storm subsiding being apparent, a small band of men determined to trust themselves to the mercy of the waves in a boat rather than go down with a struggle.—Leaving the saloon, therefore, they got out and lowered away the port cutter, into which 16 of the crew and three of the passengers succeeded in getting and in launching her clear of the ship. These 19 men shouted for the captain to come with them, but with that heroic courage which was his chief characteristic, he declined to go with them, saying: "No, I will go down with the passengers; but I wish you God speed and safe to land." The boat then pulled away, tossing about helplessly on the crests of the gigantic waves. Scarcely had they gone eighty yards, or been five minutes off the deck, when the fine steamer went down stern foremost with her crew of human beings, from whom one confused cry of helpless terror arose, and all was silent for ever.

After the pinnace had gaff away from the London, and in the brief interval before she foundered, a rush was seen to be made for the two remaining boats, but the efforts to launch them were ineffectual, and the suddenness of the foundering at last—the London being an iron ship—prevented what might have been a successful second attempt to save a few more lives."

An Early Session of Parliament Predicted.

The Ottawa *Post* of Tuesday evening, after stating that the mission of Messrs. Galt and Howland to Washington has been a total failure, adds—For those and other reasons we may look for an early session of the legislature. Indeed, it is known to well-informed political circles here that a Cabinet meeting will be held immediately on the arrival of his Excellency the Governor General from England, the result of which may be the calling of a session at the earliest possible day. We will leave to those who are fond of speculation to trace the course of events further; but we may add that the next will be the last session of the current Parliament. It can plainly be expected, therefore, that members will be called on to deal with new questions of public policy before their constituents have had an opportunity of passing judgment on the new situation.

THE MATRIMONIAL MARKET IN RICHMOND, VA.—A Richmond paper says that young men are scarce in that city, and maidens and widows in search of husbands very plenty. The latter seem to be the most successful, and the editor, pleading in behalf of the maidens, says: "We do not think, in view of the great scarcity of men, that it is fair for widows to marry a second time, until the young maidens have secured husbands. The Legislature ought to attend to this matter, and protect the interests of young ladies, for without the aid of legal enactment, the widows are sure to play the grab game. They will, therefore, have to be restrained by the strong arm of the law, as was done in the early colonial history of Virginia, when the house of Burgesses passed an act of the very character indicated. It was found that all the young men imported into the colony were at once caught by the widows, by superior wiles and stratagems, without any chance being allowed to the modest and retiring young maidens; so the Legislature took the matter in hand, and will have to do so again."

Mrs. Dr Walker, an American celebrity, is in sore distress. A year or two after the war broke out she deserted her unfortunate husband and took service in the Federal army as a surgeon and physician. He fondly entreated her to return. She refused. The poor man thereupon turned the tables upon her by suing for a divorce *a mensa et thoro* pleading her absence in justification. His suit was granted, but his troubles are by no means ended, as she now seeks legislative relief from the New York Assembly, and petitions to be reinstated in her rights as Mrs. Walker, on the ground that her husband took an unfair advantage of her absence "in the field," and exerted it to her prejudice. Moral—Don't marry a Doctress, and especially one who will go gadding after soldiers.

☞ The cattle disease has appeared in the Madras Presidency. Upwards of 3000 head of horned cattle have died of the disease, which is now raging in Burmah, and in one or two districts it is reported to have affected the inhabitants. A famine prevails in the Chundwara district of the Gwalior territory, and hundreds of people have, it is said, died for want of food.

☞ Prince Frederick William, the eldest son of the Crown Prince of Prussia, who will be eight years old on the 28th inst., is shortly to be made a sub-lieutenant in the 1st Regiment of Prussian infantry.

TRADE WITH JAPAN.

The Japanese Government has deemed it necessary to grant another demand of the representatives of the foreign Powers, by opening, from Jan. 1, 1866, two more ports to foreign trade. These two ports are Hioga and Osaca—the latter one of the most important cities of the empire, having a population of more than three hundred thousand inhabitants, and being in fact the commercial capital of Japan. Both are situated not far from Miaco, the residence of the Mikado, or Spiritual Emperor. The importance of this concession for the permanent establishment of foreign commerce, and for enlarging the general intercourse of Japan with civilized nations, is obvious. It is the most effectual blow which has yet been given to Japanese nativism. Not only will the establishment of the foreigners in the commercial capital accustom the native mind to foreign intercourse more rapidly than the trade of any other port has done, but the nearness of Osaca to Miaco is likely to undermine considerably the mysterious authority of the Spiritual Emperor, to which the long separation of Japan from the civilized world is chiefly due. Throughout the last two years the Japanese Government have made great efforts to prevail upon the "Treaty Powers" to consent to the postponement of the opening of Osaca. In February, 1864, a new embassy was for that purpose sent to Europe, but it returned without having accomplished its object. The Japanese are by far the most enterprising and progressive people of Eastern Asia, and are therefore likely to turn their acquaintance with the civilized world to better advantage than the Chinese and other Asiatics have thus far done. We learn from England that the Japanese Commissioners who were sent their last year by their Government to inspect the principal industrial establishments of the country, and to report upon the various kinds of machinery most suitable for introduction into Japan, were recently at Ipswich, and attracted much attention by their keen and intelligent observation. It may, therefore, be expected that trade between Japan and those foreign countries with which it has concluded commercial treaties may soon assume important dimensions. The Powers with which treaties have been concluded are thus far the following:—The United States, 1854; England, 1854; Russia, 1855; Holland, 1855; Portugal, 1860; Prussia, 1861; Switzerland, 1864.—(N. Y. Tribune.

UNPLEASANT COMPANIONS.—Scorpions, centipedes, and poisonous spiders also, were not unfrequently brought into the ship with the wood, and occasionally found their way into our beds; but in every instance we were fortunate enough to discover and destroy them before they did any harm. Naval officers on this coast report that, when scorpions and centipedes remain a few weeks after being taken on board in a similar manner, their poison lo