Huron Signal.

GODERICH, C. W., JUNE 8, 1865

ANNEXATION.

THE subject of Annexation to the United States is gradually but surely taking shape in this Province, and ere long it will, in all probability, have assumed such proportions that our leading statesmen and the guides of public opinion generally will be called upon to take sides for or against the movement. The times are propitious for the unmasking of long cherished opinions. Our politics being scattered to the four winds of heaven, and the natural tendency of the Confederation discussions, have turned men's minds in the direction of political and governmental change, and a valid excuse is given to those who are only too willing to contemplate Annexation as a possible and perhaps desirable contingency. A few short years ago and the reform party was charged with look-to-Washington proclivities if one of its leaders dared to hint that *some* of the institutions of the Republic might be advantageously grafted upon our political system; and the man who would in those days openly advocate Annexation in the House of Parliament or through the Press of the country would stand in imminent danger of social prescription and public obloquy. The change that a few short years has wrought in the spirit of our dream is but another illustration of the rapidity with which an idea, once set afloat, gathers strength and takes definite shape. Now, we find staid, sober history journals such as the Galt *Reporter* openly advocating Annexation, while the *Globe* buckles on its armor in defence of the brave old flag that has for so many centuries been carried in the vanguard of the ever onward march of civilization, freedom and human progress generally. Perhaps it is only a notion of ours, but we often think that there never was a period when utilitarianism exercised such a controlling influence over the masses of mankind as at present. It is not that the struggle for bread is any keener than formerly; on the contrary, a thousand new avenues to material wealth and comfort have been searched out by modern science, but the very prosperity enjoyed seems to blur and blot the spirit of patriotism that, in times past, bound men to lofty ideas of national honor and national independence, to the partial exclusion of those *money considerations* that stand out as the *ne plus ultra* of our politics, national and municipal. Hence many English orators and publicists, in calmly discussing the desirability or possibility of maintaining the Colonies intact, demand that it shall be demonstrated whether such maintenance will prove pecuniarily remunerative. If so, *well*, and "Brittannia" shall still "rule the wave;" but if the decision is an adverse one, in a monetory point of view, the Colonies may go wherever they like. This kind of talk has soured the minds of many British Canadians, and the "hard times" to which we are subjected whilst our neighbors drive ahead with all the enormous war debt heaped upon them tends to induce them to jump at the conclusion that Annexation is all that we require in order to build up our Commerce, develop our resources, and, in short, make *everybody rich*.

Let us not be too sanguine with regard to the benefits attending an entrance into "the Union." Be it remembered that the public debt of the United States at this moment is about £650,000,000 sterling, and that at the average rate of interest of six per cent. it will require at least £80,000,000 stg. to meet the requirements of the public service for a year. Even with the addition of the population of British America the taxation would come up to about $14.00 per annum for each man, woman and child in the Republic; and this, too, irrespective of State and municipal taxation. Entrance into the Union would, therefore, vastly increase the burthens of a public nature already placed upon our people, and it should be made very clear how we are to be compensated for this assumption of responsibility before we court such a total change as is involved in Annexation. True, America is a great country, and Americans are proverbial for energy in developing the latent resources of their country, but we fail to see that they would rush into Canada with their surplus capital after Annexation any more than before it. Our oil and mineral lands are now largely held by Americans, our waters are freely used by them, and there is no doubt but they would be glad to avail themselves of the Ottawa or Georgian Bay Canal, should either, in the course of time, be constructed. Annexation or no annexation, Americans will invest their surplus cash in Canada only in so far as they may find it advantageous to do so, and we hold that a liberal trade policy, with a re-establishment of the Reciprocity Treaty, will give us all the material advantages of Union without thrusting upon our populations political institutions repugnant to their every habit and association.—Commercially, we could not gain much by union with the States, and socially and politically we would be losers. No doubt the Americans possess institutions that are admirable both in theory and practice, but there are principles involved in their system which could not be cordially endorsed or received by the Canadian people for years and years to come, and the result would be a conflict into which would be thrown the most dangerous elements of discord. Low as our suffrage is at present, we should hardly like to see it extended until it became impossible for men of honor to hold offices of trust and responsibility—it would be difficult to convince us that our judiciary, if elective, would be as pure and independent as at present—it would be hard to prove that a periodical change of civil officers from Governor down to village constable could induce honesty where honesty is so indispensably necessary, and it would be a heart-aching day when our household gods, our grand old British prejudices, our every habit and mode of thought must be broken up, cast away, or remodeled to suit the fancy or whim of a people whom it would for generations be impossible to regard as other than our conquerors. What has come over Canadians that so many of them, yea, even those high in authority, are ready to concede to the stranger all that our less worldly or more patriotic forefathers fought and bled to retain intact? Where is the old spirit of 1775? When, in that year, delegates from all the then American States assembled in Philadelphia to form the basis of the Union subsequently consummated, it seemed to be a foregone conclusion that Canada would enter immediately into the Federal compact. Section 11 of the articles of agreement provided that, "Canada, acceding to the "Confederation, and joining in the measures of the United States, shall be "admitted into and be entitled to the "advantages of the Union." But the temptations, the allurements, the intrigues made use of were unavailing, as were the forcible measures resorted to in after years. And shall *we* prove recreant? Shall *we* prove ourselves unworthy of the confidence of the home authorities in granting us the boon of responsible government? Shall we throw ourselves into the vortex of a social volcano which may burst forth again and flood the land with untold horrors? Why need we give up our time-honored institutions, our literature, everything to which the heart clings with loving tenacity for a bubble that would burst before ten years. Let us be men, and not unthinking children! Let us wait on Providence, who may be kindly disposed to grant us a season of fruitfulness, which will do more to restore confidence and contentment than all the writing that can be done by all the editors in Canada.

VILLAINY.

RECENT developments at Hamilton, with which most of our readers are acquainted, reveal the fact that an organization of robbers has been in existence in Canada for some years, and that most of the burglaries, horse thefts, incendiary fires, &c., which have been of such frequent occurrence, are directly traceable to this gang of scoundrels. The goods of retail dealers have been abstracted so skillfully and systematically that persons have passed into insolvency without being made aware of the nefarious means used against them. In other cases, extensive robberies have been covered by the application of the incendiary's torch—safes have been blown open—wholesale houses in the large cities have been "spotted" and "fitted," and it is hard to say where the thing might have ended had not the operations of the gang been brought to a sudden termination. Through the agency of an able detective, one Armstrong, who appeared to be one of the gang, important arrests have been made, and we trust that the Provincial Penitentiary will soon hold within its walls a batch of the worst criminals that can infest society. While it is true that this organization has lived and flourished in our midst, it is equally true that at no former period in the history of the country was there so much *general* villainy going on as at present. The American war attracted and created immense numbers of adventurers and scoundrels, whose object was to make money *easily* and by *any* possible means—whether by cribbing or downright plundering, and these fellows being now out of *regular employment* infest the Northern States and Canada. Horses and cattle are being stolen, clothes-lines are being stripped, robberies large and small are rife, and the state of the country is such in this respect that it behoves our authorities to be on their guard and make every possible provision for the detection and punishment of crime. Would it not be well for the Co. Council or whoever the authority rests with to encourage the efforts made by the County Constabulary in protecting property? Would it not be well to sustain, pecuniarily, the zealous efforts of a smart, shrewd, experienced officer like chief-constable Trainer? The interests of the community demand that he should be properly paid for the loss of time incurred in hunting up and bringing to justice those who prey upon it. A word to the wise *should* be sufficient.

ALTHOUGH we consider the game not worth the amount of powder expended on it, we give two letters to-day, out of several received, to show the indignation aroused by the gratuitous interference of our "Canadian" correspondent of last week. The gentleman will probably be willing to admit by this time that he was mistaken in his hasty statements regarding the public feeling of his own section. The simple fact of the matter is that the entire Press of Canada, without exception, is strongly opposed to a vindictive policy towards the fallen leaders of the South, and we do not believe that a single journal in England or France has expressed a contrary view. The editor of the *Signal*, therefore, has the satisfaction of knowing that his opinions upon this subject are identical with those of "the civilized world."

A PUFF OF WIND.—On Sunday afternoon a hurricane passed over Goderich which threatened at one time to do much damage, but which only swept off immense clouds of dust. Torrents of rain were expected, but the vivifying streams came no nearer than Ashfield. The back townships, we learn, were blessed with a great fall of rain. We hope it will soon be our own case, for the present overpoweringly hot weather is telling severely upon field and garden.

Town & Counties

☞ The Court of Quarter Sessions will open in Goderich on the 13th inst.

☞ Business on the Lakes is becoming dull. We are informed that quite a number of propellers, &c., are lying idle at Chicago.

SELLING OFF.—Messrs D. Kerr & Co. have commenced selling off the whole of their present stock, and we have no doubt that bargains will be had.

☞ Mr. John Donogh intimates elsewhere that he has re-opened in Fulton's old stand, where he will be glad to receive a portion of the public patronage, and no doubt he will strive to deserve it.

CONCERT AT THE COURT HOUSE, GODERICH, 13TH JUNE.—We understand Mr. Ferguson the well known Performer on the Pipes, will give one of his agreeable Concerts prior to his Summer trip. It being Court time, those from the Country will have an opportunity to hear him. He will be assisted by Gentlemen Amateurs.

NEW LAW FIRM.—Messrs. Sinclair & Walker announce that they have entered into partnership. We have no doubt that the new firm will do a full share of the legal business of the Counties, and attend to matters confided to them with all carefulness and promptitude.

AN INVASION.—On Monday a vast army of caterpillars appeared on our streets marching Northward with great rapidity. Some of the shop-keepers had to ply the broom vigorously to keep them out of doors. Grubs in the fields and caterpillars, &c., in the trees and bushes are creating great havoc in this neighborhood.

Railway Communication with Bayfield.

A Bayfield correspondent of the *Free Press* under the date of May 27th, says:—

I am surprised that some effort has not been made by the influential men of London, to continue the railroad through to Bayfield. If my memory serves me faithfully, the Hon. Malcolm Cameron had a bill passed for a railroad from Port Stanley to London, thence to some port on lake Huron, suppose Bayfield. From Port Stanley to London it has long been running, but the rest of the bill has not been carried out. We can all remember when the road from Goderich to London was lined with teams laden with products and returning with merchandize to replenish the stores, but where has that trade gone now? it is lost for want of a little energy. Put a strait edge across the map from London to Bayfield, and you would see that the road would pass through the best townships in Canada, and many fine villages which have sprung up since, although situated many miles from railroad communication. There is Ingersoll, Credit too, Zurich, and Bayfield, all thriving places. Bayfield is from boast of a harbour which, with a moderate sum would be second to none on the Lake where large quantities of fish are caught yearly, and convenient warehouses, some five or six stories that would be no discredit to the best town in Canada, some six or seven taverns, some three or four waggon makers, as many blacksmiths shoemakers, tanners, brewers, tailors, and in fact, every description of tradesmen that goes to make up a thriving village.

☞ Westminster Review for April contains a number of excellent papers and one or two possessing particular interest for Canadian readers. Contents:—The Positive Philosophy of Auguste Comte; St. John's Gospel; The State of English Law: Codification; Modern Novelists: Sir Edward Bulwer Lytton; Parliament and Reform; The Canadian Confederacy; Contemporary Literature. Republished by L. Scott & Co., N. Y. Sold by T. J. Moorhouse, Goderich.

BLACKWOOD.—The May No. is a capital one—not too heavy for the warm weather and not light unto trashiness. Ebony should be in the hands of every lover of English Literature pure and undefiled. For sale at the *Signal* Office Bookstore

Police Intelligence.

A case between two parties living in Ashfield was tried before C. Crabb, Esq., on Monday morning. The particulars are these: On Wednesday, 31st ult., Robert Graham and John Durnin had a dispute about the sharing of some lumber which the latter was hauling to town.—Finding moral suasion was unavailing, Graham kicked Durnin in the leg and seizing him by the throat nearly choked the poor fellow to death. Seeing some one approaching he then left him lying on the road beneath his horses' feet and made for the woods. The case being proven, Mr. Lefroy, who appeared for Graham, advised him to accept of pff.'s proposal to settle the case on the payment of all costs by deft. Graham wisely consented, and paid some $8.00 or $9.00, being at least twice what the lumber was worth.

To-day, Tuesday, one Joseph Shannon was brought before the Mayor charged with having stolen a cow from Mr. Wm Arthur. By request of Mr. Hays, deft's counsel, the case was postponed until this afternoon at 4 o'clock.

One Donald M Innes, a half naked creature, who vegetates about Maitlandville, for knocking down and maltreating Robert Renwick, was fined $12.00 and costs or one month in gaol. Donald will probably lodge with Mr. Robertson for the next four weeks.

GODERICH TOWNSHIP.

MEETING OF COUNCIL.

Holmesville, May 29th, 1865.

The Council met according to appointment—present, the Reeve and all the Councillors. The minutes of last meeting was read over and approved.

A petition from Henry Touchbourne and others, requesting a sum of money for improving side road leading from the 6th to the 3rd cons., between lots 20 and 21.

Moved by Mr. Sheppard, second by Mr. Ford, That the petition of Mr. Touchbourne and others be complied with, and that the Reeve and Mr. Patton go and view said road, and let a contract of the same if necessary.

Moved by Mr. Ford, seconded by Mr. Sheppard, That Robert and William Disney do their Statute Labor opposite lot 36 on the 11th concession.

The account of Geo Young for repairing a culvert opposite lot 33, on the 9th con., certified by Mr. Sheppard, amounting to $3.87½ Moved by Mr. Sheppard, seconded by Mr. Ford, That the account of George Young be paid, and the Reeve sign an order for the same.

The account of Thomas Sturdy and others for putting in a culvert and repairing road opposite lot 26 on the Maitland con., or Huron road, certified by Mr. Patton, amounting forty six dollars and fifty cents.

Moved by Mr Patton, seconded by Mr Weston, That the account of Thomas Sturdy be paid.

The account of David Cook for putting in a culvert between lots 26 and 27 on the 9th con., certified by Mr. Ford, amounting to $2.37½.

Moved by Mr. Ford, seconded by Mr. Sheppard, That the account of David Cook be paid.

The account of William McDougall for putting in a culvert on the centre road opposite lot 25, amounting to $.6.

Moved by Mr Patton, seconded by Mr. Weston, That the account of Wm McDougall be paid.

Moved by Mr. Ford seconded by Mr. Sheppard, That Mr T J Moorhouse be paid the sum of $6.00 for two Municipal Manuals purchased for the use of Council, and that the Reeve sign an order for the same.

Moved by Mr. Ford, seconded by Mr. Patton, That the following sums be expended in the several Wards in this Township for the current year, viz:—

Ward No 1	$120
" 2	180
" 3	180
" 4	180
" 5	180
	$840

Moved by Mr. Sheppard seconded by Mr. Ford, That the sum of $150 be expended on the Bayfield Con., and also the sum of $100 on the Centre Road between the 7th and 9th concessions.

The Council then adjourned to meet again on the last Monday in July.

JOHN SHAW, Tp Clerk.

SEAFORTH.

LECTURES.—John Gray delivered a series of admirable Lectures on Bunyan and his Pilgrim's Progress, lately, in the Masonic Hall. His next lecture will be on "Robert Burns, his faults and his virtues."

☞ A lecture on the causes and effects of the American War in Seaforth, on the 2nd, by Mr. Wm. Campbell, resulted in something very like a general row. At this late date we think it would be just as well to let the American War lie in abeyance.

MONEY LOST.—An American upset his buggy opposite Govenlock's Mill and lost his pocket-book containing fifty or sixty dollars. Kitty McLeod of McKillop, was also in the buggy at the time of the upset and had her arm broken.

MORE MONEY LOST.—Patrick Doyle of Hibbert lost a pocket-book between H. Currie's and Walsh's, containing from forty to fifty dollars; he offers a reward of $5 for its discovery.

EXODUS.—This neighborhood is almost deserted by young men. In some instances three out of one house have gone to the States to seek employ. Although labor is dull now there will be a great scarcity of it in the harvest.

WOOL STOLEN.—While Mr. Campbell was lecturing on Friday night, a thief or thieves were helping himself or themselves with wool in Frank Scott's barn. All that gentleman's wool was stolen except a few fleeces he had laid by.

HAY.

THE CROPS.—You stated lately that you hoped soon to hear how the crops were in every township in the county; it would be interesting indeed to have short "Weather and Crop" notes from reliable persons throughout the county during the growing season. Allow me to make a start and set an example of a good intention at least.

I have been wandering a little lately through this township, and find that Fall Wheat is killed out a great deal more than was expected at one time. On what land to be our best wheat growing section, the Goshen and Bruinson roads, the Fall Wheat is looking, in general, very thin and delicate. Towards the London Road there are some very good looking pieces, and all the new land looks splendid. The spring crops have a fine appearance. Once and a while you come across some symptoms of grub, but they are limited to the sod and foul land. We have had hot weather for the last few days, the sun rising and setting red, with the same broken looking sky that stuck to us so long last summer during the long drought. It is to be hoped that we are not in for such a spell now, but it is ominous.

SMALL POX.—I am sorry to say that the small pox is still rife. A fine young woman died last week with them.—Some years ago I heard of a discovery of a decided cure for small pox, said to be by a plant called the "Pitcher Plant;" and a few years since, when they were raging in Galt, I saw an article in one of the Galt papers describing the plant and the cure. If you or any of your readers know anything of this tell us; or perhaps this might meet the eye of some of your Galt exchanges and they might give us their experience. Anything that would tend to mitigate would be a blessing to humanity, for it is often a fatal, and always a loathsome disease.

To the Editor of the Huron Signal.

DEAR SIR,—You are certainly entitled to the thanks of your readers in these Counties for your very generous encouragement of correspondents, by means of which a large amount of local news is circulated; and, moreover, latent talent is developed and genius called out from among most unlooked for persons, and never-to-be-expected localities, which but for you might have bloomed unseen. For instance, a "Poor Young Man," who was a most humble enough at one time to take a job of cutting stove-wood, taking advantage of your columns, grew into a satirist of no common order. He cut at the follies of the day keenly, and shaved mustaches to a very hair. So keen did he cut, that it roused the ire of a denizen of the old quiet village of Bayfield, none of whose inhabitants anybody ever expected to be roused or excited by anything short of a Public Dinner or an earthquake.

I see in your last issue a letter from the philosopher, the "Canadian" of Brucefield—the "disgusted man." What a pity that you will not turn right about to please him, and damn and hang the South, and make shipwreck of your faith and consistency.—What a fellow he is to measure other people's corn with his own wee bushel. As farmer reason and logic goes, you polished him off nicely; but it is lost on such as he. If it would pay and be worth while, the best way to finish him up completely would be to send down the "Poor Young Man," to daguerreotype him in a pen and ink sketch, and shave him bare. However, if said Canadian will perpetrate again, it would be well for him to hunt up his fellow townsman the "Devil," and ask him what is the probable fate of all who write such communications as appeared lately in the columns of the *Huron Signal* over the signature of "Canadian"? Yours, &c.,

RETROSPECT.

Among the hemlocks, June 3rd, 1865.

☞ On Tuesday evening, 30th ult., Mrs. Eberth, wife of Mr. Eberth, brewer, Hanover, was thrown from a buggy and instantly killed. Two children who were in the vehicle at the time escaped.

☞ A virulent dog disease has broken out in Austria and Syria. Too dogs have been dying in thousands. No cause for the distemper is assigned.

Bruce County Town.

With reference to the action *Valentine vs. Bruce* we find that the following decision has been rendered:

VALENTINE vs BRUCE.—An injunction was yesterday granted in this case to restrain the payment of any further moneys for the erection of county buildings, and an order was made for the payment of $3,500 (part of a sum of $6,000) into court. The contractor is not restrained from going on with the buildings if he chooses to do so at his own risk. Mr. Blake, Q. C. for plaintiff; Mr. Strong, Q. C., and Mr. Cattanach for defendant.

This decision is, of course, to a certain extent adverse to the action of a majority of the Pro. Council, but we very much mistake if it will stop the erection of the Buildings at Walkerton. We are assured, and have good reason to believe, that a fresh vote of the Reeves would leave the opponents of the present settlement in a far greater minority than ever before.—The people of Bruce as well as an overwhelming majority of their representatives are heartily sick of this everlasting Co. Town affair, and when Parliament meets it is not apprehended that there will be any difficulty in obtaining a Bill legalizing the action of the Council. The matter should now be considered finally settled, and the construction of a commonsense Gravel Road gone into. By this means, the County will at once begin a career of progression and development.

Rodgerville, June 5th, 1865.

To the Editor of the HURON SIGNAL:

SIR,—We feel alarmed, sorely alarmed, yes sir,—fact. Alarmed at what? you ask. Well, it is this, if we are in the "civilized world" at all we are evidently enough its confines that our proximity to barbarism is truly a subject of alarm. A genius writing from Brucefield to you, whose *nom du plume* is "Canadian," asserts your logic meets the disapproval of "this fair, *much less* the civilized world." Had Brucefield been within the pale of civilization, your ratiocinations would have met a more unfavorable reception still, but the affinities of barbarism and slavery are too closely allied for a total estrangement. The object of "Canadian's" letter is to urge the propriety of either executing the chiefs of the great American Rebellion, or a life incarceration in some "dungeon." That this counsel partakes of a wild savagery, a fierce vindictive ferocity, is just as patent as "Canadian's" ignorance of orthography, punctuation and syntax is to any babe. That picture of horror drawn by his facile pen may be true, the motives, he alleges, actuating the instigators of war may be correct,—but from which we must dissent,—yet we can discern no argument in all these to justify the barbarous regime so eloquently, pathetically and exhaustively advocated by him. Loyalty to the United States government has hitherto been but ill defined; and it has always been a matter of grave speculation whether the loyalty of the citizen must give precedence to state, or general government, or how much loyalty or fealty he owed to each. The right of secession if not granted by the American constitution is certainly not condemned, while the whole power remained in the state to act as it felt disposed with the exception of the few powers it voluntarily surrendered to the general government. All of the States seceding from the Union passed an ordinance of secession, by delegates elected for the purpose, the State of Texas voted yea or nay on this very subject. Had the seceding States been opposed to the measure of secession they would have voted nay, but in all of the States it was carried by overwhelming majorities. Gen. Lee was opposed to secession, but he considered fidelity to his State was more incumbent on him than to the Washington government. As Lee thought of Virginia, so thought Stephens of Georgia, and only from a settled conviction of right did they, with Jefferson Davis, yield to the more ardent statesmen of the South, when supported by the Southern people *en masse*. That Davis, Stephens and Lee became so conspicuous, was due to their high talents, and not the reward of foul treachery or a base desertation of principle. They are no more guilty of treason than the veriest clown that wielded a musket or sabre against the Union. Their future should earn for them commiseration in the darkhour of trial, for the magnanimity which they displayed in all transactions while in power, is worthy of universal approbation. The odium by which the Washington government tries to crown them will eventuate in their more extended admiration and win for them a more universal sympathy. To take the captured president of the Southern Land Ship with chains, array him in the garb of his flight that all may mock him, to exhibit him as a wild beast, and to put on the bonnet and petticoats and hoops she had donned to escape with to the various cities of the Union, to be exhibited to excite the low buffoonery of the canaille, is unworthy of a great nation, and clearly demonstrates Johnson better fitted for a tailor's bench than the presidential chair. Should the American government adopt the suggestions of "Canadian" the leaders of the South will mount from rebels to martyrs, and a mighty reaction take place in North-ern sentiment, as pity or indignation is softened at severity, while fallen greatness barbarously curbed of makes man overlook past offences, and embalm its memory with a living veneration. The tragical death of Wallace has woven his name in a thousand legends and made him an object of veneration to every Scotchman, which fires his bosom as warmly as it did the Scots of the fifteenth century. The execution of Robert Emmet only tended to inflame the ill feeling of the Irish and served as a *point d' appui* from which to fire the shots of Irish oratory against Saxon misrule. The Robespierrean execution in France caused a reaction in favor of the Bourbons; and the penal servitude imposed upon the liberals of Russia foments the very thing it is intended to smother. The American Government can well afford to be generous, as it has so thoroughly crushed out the great rebellion; and if it reflects on its own rebellious origin, forbearance and mercy would reflect it more honor. The eyes of the civilized world are turned to Washington viewing the great state trials with feverish anxiety, to see how the model Republic will mete out life or death to its prostrate foes—to witness if a generous magnanimity will obtain at Washington, or if the murderous examples of blood-naked monarchies are to be copied in all their horrid detail. Smith O'Brien, Mitchell, and Meagher were not sent to dungeons. Napoleon found no dungeon either, and if a monarchy can be so magnanimous how much more so should a democracy with its great latitude for individual action be? *A Canadian* should cover his face with blushes to utter such ungenerous sentiments; commiseration for the downtrodden is a trait of British character, and if any of it reddened the veins of a "Canadian" he would have spoken in more becoming terms. We hope friend "Canadian" you may betake yourself to self-improvement, devoting some time to diction, grammer and orthography. You might also take a lesson or two in geography, and try, if possible, to locate Brucefield in civilization. Our contiguity is somewhat embarrassing, as we formerly deemed Rodgerville within the pale. Probably were you in the position of the Southern leaders you might be a craven Monmouth begging mercy from an inexorable James, or if in Russia using the knout to flagellate the backs of all men sufficiently independent to think for themselves.

Your ob't serv't,

MUGGINS.

THE Emperor Napoleon is of the same age as President Johnson and Jefferson Davis—fifty seven. The Emperor of Russia is forty-seven, and Victor Immanuel is forty-five.

THE FENIANS AT WORK.—The Dublin correspondent thus writes to the London Times on the 8th inst.: A Fenian meeting was held yesterday evening on the "plains of Clontarf," a district called the Bull.—The president of the assembly occupied a ditch in lieu of a chair. The ostensible object of the demonstration was to express sympathy with the people of the United States, but the real purpose seems to have been to give vent to a quantity of sedition, and to advise the working classes not to join their countrymen in giving a loyal welcome to the Prince of Wales. The people will treat the advice with contempt. The speakers talked of planting the green flag and the stars and stripes on the Irish soil, with the help of the Americans. "But they would do well," says Saunders, "to remember what President Johnson has been saying on the subject of treason," which he denounced as the greatest of all crimes. "Will he be likely to assist Irish traitors? The men who take for their motto the words uttered by the assassin of Lincoln will be as odious to Americans as to Englishmen.

United States.

Southern Correspondence of the "Signal."

DEVIL'S BLUFF, Arkansas, May 26th, 1865.

DEAR SIR,—I thought that you would like to hear from a Goderich man in the South.—This place is upon the White River, (Muddy would be a better name for it) and is about 165 miles from the Mississippi. I had a very pleasant time coming down the great Father of Waters—the mighty Mississippi. We left Cairo, Ill., on the 12th May, and I would say for the benefit of any of my Canadian friends that I think Cairo is the filthiest place in existence. It looks like the end of the world, the tail of creation, the finis of the sphere, the dirt box of the globe. It is built on a mo-ass, with a high embankment in front to keep it from being washed off the map by an overflow. All the streets are bridged over with rickety wooden bridges for foot passengers, and in only three or four streets can horses travel. Pigs, cows, hens, and horses run loose in the streets and every thorough fare is a garbage box. The most of the houses are built on posts from 10 to 20 feet high. All the stores are variety stores; the telegraph operator keeps grocery store, &c., and the postmaster has a 6 by 10 mess stand, and yet fortunes are made here. I heard of one man who has made $125,000 who came here three years ago as porter in a store.—There are two newspapers here, and they talk of our "growing city" as they talked 20 years ago. While standing at the corner of Commercial and Washington streets, I asked a gentleman what lots were worth. He pointed to a spot where there was about two feet of water, and said, "that lot (although I did not see it and you would require a pole of considerable length to get bottom) is worth $200 per foot and they have to keep two steam pumps going to keep the water down." Such, I assure you, is a true description of Cairo, Ill., and, under the circumstances, I would not advise any of my old friends in Canada to make Cairo their home. After leaving Cairo on one of the Mississippi floating palaces, we soon came to Columbus, Kentucky. Directly opposite is the battlefield of Belmont. But we move on and soon the dark outlines of Island No. 10 open to view, the second of American battle fields seen by me. Our steamer lands here to take on some men who have been chopping wood on the Island and who are now returning to their homes in the sunny South. Again we move on and see not the beautiful plantations with their suburban palaces that I was led to suppose every slaveowner had, but an ordinary farm house and comfortable negro huts. We are now at the little town of Fulton, it two houses and numberless chimneys standing to mark the site of once happy homes can be called a town. A little further on is Randolph. But where once all was life and activity, now there is but a heap of ruins.—Further down the river we come to Fort Pillow, and one cannot help wondering while looking on the green fields and frowning bluffs that here mean wicked passions led them to commit acts that a fiend might well blush at. The fortifications are naturally strong on the Tennessee side. We are now at the scene of the late Sultana steamer accident. One boat picked up one of the passengers at Island 62. He had been scalded in a shocking manner. They took him to Memphis, where they buried him. We stayed a few hours in Memphis and I paid a visit to the town. It is on a high bluff that overlooks the river. I spoke to one man that was looking at the great naval fight here and he said it was fearful to hear the shrieks and groans of the wounded and dying. I am afraid I am tiring you, but it pleasing to you I will at another time give you an account of the rest of my trip, and as I am going to stay here all summer, I may hear something of importance and shall be pleased to let you know. Yours, &c.,

W. W. McL.

NEW YORK, June 3.—The Tribune's Washington special despatch says:—Col. Walter H. Taylor, Gen. Lee's Adjutant General, Surgeon W. J. Moore, and about 50 Confederate soldiers, at present residing in Norfolk, have been summoned to appear before the United States District Court at one o'clock this morning, with the view of testifying against General R. E. Lee and other prominent Confederate officials on a charge of treason."

The Herald's special despatch says:—The arrival of Jefferson Davis was prematurely announced. He was sent from Fortress Monroe on the steamer Sangus, which got aground 18 miles below this city. He was then transferred to the torpedo boat Chico, and has arrived up in her. It is understood that quarters have been prepared for him in the old Capitol, and that a suitable guard will be furnished to ensure his safe keeping.

Gen Thomas had a long interview with the President. It is not known, as yet, when he will proceed to Richmond to assume command of the department of Virginia, but it will probably be within a few days.

The World's special despatch says:—Mr. Charles O'Connor has applied to the War Department for permission to tender to Jeff. Davis his professional services, in case he is arraigned upon the indictment found in the District of Columbia, and the President has directed that Mr. O'Connor's application be granted to the end that the constitutional provision, which secures to accused persons the assistance of counsel, may be respected.

The Herald's Washington special despatch says:—The movement of Sherman's army to Louisville is actively progressing. All the 15th corps except two brigades have gone, and the other corps of the army of the Tennessee, the 17th, will immediately follow after them and go to the army of Georgia, Gen Slocum commanding. None of General Slocum's army has left here yet notwithstanding the report to the contrary. They will not leave until the rolls are prepared and the non-veterans mustered out, when the veterans will proceed west.

By order of General Logan, all unemployed negroes who accompanied the army of the Tennessee, and who are not actually needed with that army, are to be turned over immediately to Gen D. H. Rucker, Chief Quartermaster of the Department of Washington.

General Logan leaves for New York next Monday morning.

The Times special despatch says:—Longstreet's business in Washington is to make special application to the President for pardon and restoration to full civil rights. He has already taken the amnesty oath.

The Herald's Richmond correspondent says:—Ex Governor Smith, of Virginia, is roaming in the woods back of Staunton, determined to fight it out if it lasts all summer. He has a body guard of guerrillas with him.

John Minor Botts has been invited to Richmond by Governor Pierpont.

It is said that a large number of Moseby's men are still at large in the mountains.

New Orleans papers contain details of the surrender of Kirby Smith's forces. The capitulation was completed on the 25th of May. Gen. Buckner, it appears, conducted the last capitulation, as he also did the first, at Fort Donelson. He showed Gen. Canby indisputable authority to act for Smith. The Confederate navy was represented by Capt. Carter. Gen. Dick Taylor was present. It is probable, therefore, a competent Federal force will move forward at once to occupy the principal cities in Texas. In the meantime the Confederate representatives will remain within our lines to give counsel and advice as to social order while Gen. Smith proceeds through his department to prepare the people for coming events.

An American Fleet for European Waters.

From the New York World.

Our brave sailors have earned a holiday, and it is perhaps not wholly undesireable that something like a parade of our greatly developed naval forces should be made in the waters of the old world. So that the news we published yesterday of the approaching rendezvous at Fortress Monroe of a considerable fleet destined for the European Atlantic and the Mediterranean may be regarded as on the whole satisfactory. The "moral value" of such demonstration is decidedly less at present than it was before steam and the telegraph had made nations as familiar as they now are with each other's real strength and resources; and ships in commission are such costly luxuries that it is not likely that the present armada will fix a precedent for the proportions of the squadrons which we shall hereafter feel it our duty to maintain on the stations which it goes forth commissioned to visit.

The Irish Catholics in America.

From the London Times, May 19th.

"The same fortune that made you a King forbade you to have a friend," is a maxim just as true of the sovereign people as it is of the sovereign man. It is scarcely possible to exaggerate the quantity of falsehood and adulation which is lavished on all communities, small or great, by those who wish to stand well with them, or the greediness with which that adulation is devoured. No country has suffered more from this kind of treatment than Ireland. No Oriental Sultan, no Roman Emperor, ever lived more completely in an atmosphere of falsehood and deception than do the poor and excitable natives of the neighboring country. No fact reaches them in its true and original form; everything is distorted and perverted to meet their hopes, their fears, and their prejudices. Some people and some countries can do no wrong; other people and other countries can do no right. On two subjects we venture to say no truth is permitted to reach the Irish mind.—One of these is the existing state and government of England, and other the existing state and government of the United States. The former can do nothing that is right, the latter nothing that is wrong. Equally impossible is it to obtain in Ireland a fair hearing for any thing in favor of the American dominions of the British Crown. The received belief, which must not be contradicted, is that the position of Irishmen in the North American colonies is in every way greatly inferior to the position of the Irishmen in the United States. Knowing very well the gross delusions that have been practised on this subject, we rejoice exceedingly that a person has at last appeared to whom the Irish must listen, whose evidence is entirely above suspicion, and who speaks with a racy originality which proves that in a distant land he has not forgotten the way to Irish hearts.

We commend the speech of Mr. Darcy M Gee at Wexford to the attention of all intending emigrants to America—to the attention of all the discontented classes in Ireland—to the attention of all who believe that there is anything to be gained by plots and clubs fractes against the British Government. On these subjects Mr. McGee is an unexceptionable witness. A Young Irelander in 1848, he found it necessary to expatriate himself. He lived in the United States till 1857, and then he transferred his household gods to Canada, where he seems to have found the means of thriving, and to have attained to something like absolute content. Of his political career in Ireland he speaks with exemplary frankness. "I am not ashamed," he says, "of Young Ireland; why should I? Politically we were a pack of Fools, but we were honest in our folly, and no matter need blush at forty for the follies of one and twenty, unless, indeed, he still perseveres in them, having no longer the fair excuse to plead of youth and experience."—He comes over as a Commissioner from Canada to the Dublin Exhibition, with a Protestant clergyman and a Catholic layman, with whom he finds it quite easy to act without discord—an example which he proposes for the imitation of Ireland, the land of phraseology, where the immense importance of resources of the language are better understood than anywhere else. He got well abused, he says, for transferring his residence from the United States to Canada. He was called traitor, renegade, and apostate, because he preferred an orderly British Province and an orderly town like Montreal; and he maintains that he has done more by a steady constitutional line of public conduct, by blending warm Irish impulse with national and lawful public objects, to conquer back respect for the Irish name than any half hundred of the lemonades in the States put together.—Such is the person tried in fortune so various and rich in experience as an informer, who comes forward to teach the Irish—that surely it greatly at the present juncture the most concerns them to know the true position which they occupy in Canada and in the United States—to tear away the veil which has concealed the truth, and to show them that uncomfortable prospect which agitators and demagogues have combined to hide from their view.

His picture of the position of the Irish in America is eminently graphic and interesting. In the first place, he asserts most positively that there exists in America no national sympathy with Ireland. People have been misled by that benevolence which, to do the Americans justice, is never wanting to any distressed people, whether their miseries arise from famine or from fire, and also by the electioneering speeches of stump orators too fond to catch the Irish vote. The prosperous and Puritanical States of New England hate the Irishman for his creed, despise him for his poverty, and depreciate him for his ignorance. In the middle States the Irish have become odious by competing with native industry, by jostling native respectability, and by persecuting the negroes. The Irishman is regarded as an outsider, and must do twice as well as another man it he means to have half the credit. Mr. McGee speaks in terms evidently drawn from the life of the Irish Demagogue in America, whether dealer in spirits, lawyer, or editor. He subscribes, but seldom goes to church; he has a rowdy rhetoric; he has heard of Phillips, Grattan and Emmett; he is savage on England, atheistic on Ireland, with some money, some wit, and much impudence. The social life of those whom he leads is not more attractive than his own character. Dispersion breaks up family ties youth is without diffidence, age is without respect, the presumption is all in favor of the young, and the popular version of the Fifth Commandment would be "Parents obey your children." These were the causes which drove Mr. McGee out of the States and into Canada, and he declares that the four hundred thousand Irish who dwellin that colony have more worth of character and influence than the millions of Irish in the States. They hold a middle position between the Irish of the Old World and of the New. They have uncoiled at the electric touch of property; they are sharpened by the keen air of the New World, but they are unspoilt Irish still—have lost little of their national simplicity. They are not servile, but have not mistaken impertinence for independence, or blasphemy and scoffing for freedom of speech. They have no political grievances, are attached to the Imperial connexion and ready to fight in its defence. There may be a few Fenians in Canada, since Soloman says "the number of fools is infinite," but there they are utterly insignificant.

Such is the picture which Mr. McGee draws of the position of the Irish in the New World, and we commend it very seriously to the consideration of his fellow countrymen. It seems to show pretty clearly that though it may be quite right for the inhabitants of Ireland to seek their fortune elsewhere than in their own country, they probably do not make a wise choice when they betake themselves to the United States. On that, however, they will naturally be hard to convince; and the vast numbers who have gone before them are a sure guarantee that, whether the step be wise or not the emigration from Ireland to the Union is pretty certain to continue. But these statements of Mr. McGee opens to us another question well worth considering.—We have been surprised to find that, notwithstanding a Government administered with great mildness and impartiality in all its branches, Ireland has continued to grow in discontent instead of becoming more reconciled to the English connection. We think Mr. McGee has thrown much light on this phenomenon. The Irish in America are nearly as numerous as the Irish in England; they are, we presume, far superior in weal