

made in accordance with the Fenian programme previously announced, to form a funeral procession, but it failed. The city is quiet.

London, Dec. 15.—Despatches have been received from Massachusetts which report that the British expedition had advanced a considerable distance into the interior of the country, but at last accounts the troops were suffering from the scarcity of water.

Paris, Dec. 15.—The general conference on the Roman question has been abandoned—the leading European governments having finally declined to take any part in it.

London, Dec. 15th.—The great powers have addressed a note to the Sublime Porte, asking that the navigation of the Dardanelles be made free to the shipping of all nations.

London, Dec. 15th.—It is thought that the Fenians will cease all active attempts against law and order, in consequence of the universal horror and indignation caused by the disastrous attempt on the Cerkvenoff Jail. Large rewards have been offered by the government for the discovery and arrest of the guilty parties.

London, Dec. 15.—The English mail straggle from Rio Janeiro has arrived. She brings important news from the scene of war on the Parana. The Paraguayan forces under command of Lopez had assumed active offensive operations. Their first movement was a complete success. They attacked the Brazilian camp and carried it by storm, taking 1,500 prisoners and several pieces of artillery. The Brazilians defended their camp with great obstinacy—losing 4,000 men in killed, wounded and prisoners.

Paris, Dec. 15.—A deputation from the English Bible Society had an audience with the Emperor Napoleon to-day, and presented him a copy of the Bible. The Emperor made a brief address, in which he declared it was his first rule to protect all religions.

Florence, Dec. 15.—A change is about to be made in the Italian Legation at Paris. The Chevalier Emelio Visconti Venesto, who was minister of foreign affairs last year, will replace the Chevalier de Nigra, who is to be transferred to London.

Guelph Evening Mercury

OFFICE:.....MACDONNELL STREET

MONDAY EVEN'G, DECEMBER 16.

OUR NEW STORY.

The new story, entitled "The Maiden's Choice" by the author of "The Outcast" and "Norah Cushman" will be commenced in the DAILY MERCURY on Saturday the 21st inst. Don't fail to get a copy of the paper with the commencement of the story.

THE ALMA BLOCK FIRE AND ITS LESSON.

We are sure there is not an individual in the community but heartily sympathises with those who sustained so much loss by the disastrous fire at the Alma Block on Saturday. To them the loss is indeed heavy, for the fruits of years of labour were in a great measure swept away in a few moments by the remorseless flames, and their business in all its relations, built up by years of incessant toil and effort—paralysed for a time. But this loss, though it falls heaviest on their shoulders, is not confined to them alone. Guelph suffers as well, for a calamity like that which occurred on Saturday is not confined in its effects to the owners alone of the property destroyed, but in a greater or lesser degree affects every ratepayer in the town. We now see the results of the narrow, short-sighted policy advocated by the majority at the public meeting, when the question respecting the construction of Water Works was considered. We then stated that those who favored the decision then come to would regret it, and that only after such a fire as occurred on Saturday would they come to their senses, and acknowledge the necessity of having efficient means for checking the progress of fires in the town. We will not go the length to say that had the Water Works which were proposed been in operation the fire on Saturday would have been stayed. But we do say that had there been a good supply of water available, and brought into requisition at the earliest moment, the fire could have been confined to Mr. Mulholland's store, and that occupied by Messrs. Massie & Co., with all the valuable stock, saved or nearly so. Here then was consumed in an hour or two as much property as would have been paid for twenty such water works as were proposed. And not only this, but had the wind been blowing strongly, and had not the efforts of the firemen and citizens, along with other circumstances, prevented the fire from spreading, there is no knowing where it would have ended. Had it seized Gowdy's lumber yard, or the cluster of wooden buildings next Smith & Metcalf's, all human efforts to prevent it from spreading would have been unavailing, and perhaps ere it had run its course, Lower Wyndham Street might have been but a heap of ruins. We were provisionally saved from such a dire result, but no thanks to any means we enjoy for quenching fire.

As regards the Water Works, the citizens have themselves to blame.—The Council matured the scheme, and laid it before them for their sanction, but they rejected it, and what is more, in a measure tied their hands from doing anything else by passing a resolution recommending that what surplus money there was on hand should be applied in lessening the taxes. At the same time, we do not hold the Council free from blame in regard to their treatment of the firemen. We

Saturday will stir up the ratepayers and the Council to adopt some more effective means for putting out fires. There is one thing clear, that the town must not longer be left in its present unprotected state. If it is, the next warning may be even more expensive and disastrous than the one about which we now write.

A Satisfied "Witness."

Mr. Dougall, of the Montreal Witness, has been up to Ottawa, and reports as follows:—

I am much pleased with the appearance of our Federal Legislature. The personnel is not only highly respectable, but the members have a general air of physical and mental vigor that is very satisfactory. The House of Commons is much better arranged for speaking and hearing than it used to be; and I learn with great pleasure that there is no opportunity now for such tirades of vituperation and abuse as used to be but too common on the part of a few members in the Canadian Legislature. Our House of Commons would no more tolerate such speeches than that of England. I am informed also by a member who has a good deal of experience, that there is scarcely a sign of intemperance among the members. He has only seen one case of a member being obviously under the influence of liquor since the session opened, although there are a number here who used formerly to be in that state. This is partly owing to the higher standard taken in every respect by the Dominion Legislature, and partly to the wholesome rule adopted at the beginning of the session concerning the Parliamentary bar, which many of the leading members are resolved to enforce in good faith. There was another reason for intemperance in former times, which does not now exist. Speakers formerly deemed themselves compelled, by custom, to keep a private dinner table at the House, and to extend invitations to dinner rather freely among members. At these dinners, various wines and liquors were provided, and members often drank freely. The present Speaker, Mr. Cookburn, of Cobourg (to his honor be it said), wished to abolish this custom of furnishing drink; but would not have liked to innovate, had not some of the members requested him to do so,—a request with which he gladly complied. Instead of these daily invitations, he is going, we believe, to give a series of merely formal dinner parties.

There is one delightful characteristic of those one meets in and around the Parliament and departmental buildings; namely, a general civility and desire to oblige. With members of either House, the question is quite common to visitors from a distance, "Can I do anything to serve you?" and all the departmental officers, from the highest to the lowest, are, so far as I have seen, very courteous and obliging.

True Heroism.

The following record of juvenile heroism, which occurred during the recent storm on the coast of Labrador will be read with interest, not unmingled with emotion of pity:—A vessel named the "Benbow," Delany master, with a large number of men, women, and children on board, tried hard to ride out the hurricane; but at length she dragged her anchors and was driven ashore. With great difficulty all on board were safely landed. Drenched with rain, blinded by the snowdrifts, shivering in the cutting blasts, they found themselves without food or shelter, the nearest huts being five miles distant. Night closed in as the last of them were dragged ashore. Their only hope lay in endeavoring to reach the huts; and through the darkness and storm those who were able staggered on along the pathless wilderness in search of shelter. Who can picture the horrors of that awful night of suffering! When the morning sun shone out, nineteen women and children lay dead along the shore. One group of children were found clasped in each other's arms, sunk in mud to their knees, frozen, all dead! During the darkness and the confusion of landing, four young children were separated from their parents who sought for them in vain, and at length gave them up for lost. A boy of fourteen years of age encountered these poor little ones; and on learning their deplorable plight, he resolved to do what he could to save their lives. Making the shivering children lie down, locked in each other's arms, he set to work resolutely, collecting moss and piling it on them, layer after layer, till at length the piercing cold was partially excluded. Then having fortunately discovered a fragment of a sail, he spread it over all, rolling stones on the extremities to retain it in its place. By hard toil he collected more moss, and increased the rude covering, until the poor little sufferers ceased to cry with the bitter cold, and sank into a slumber. Through all the dreary hours of that awful night, this heroic boy remained by these children, guarding them from the blasts and speaking to them, when they awoke, words of cheer and hope. He might have taken refuge in the huts, but he would not leave his helpless charge. At length day-light appeared, and then he turned his tottering steps towards the huts, to look for aid. When half way, he met the parents of the missing children coming out to search for their dead bodies. He told them where they were to be found; and on lifting the covering, their hearts throbbed joyfully to find their children alive and refreshed with sleep. But alas! on the way back they found the noble boy who had saved their children's lives at the expense of his own, lying dead! Nature was exhausted after the fatigues and exposure of the night; and, unable to reach the friendly shelter, he sank and expired.

True Heroism.

It is reported that the Hon George Brown will return to Canada on or about the 15th of next month.

A large body of the Quebec ship carpenters have been visiting the various ship yards in Quebec, their object being to prevent men who had recently complied with the terms offered by the employers, from working. Some workmen were brutally beaten and their tools destroyed. The police patrols have been doubled in Quebec, and it is probable that the ringleaders of this lawless band will be brought to justice.

The cleanest village in the world is Brock, in Holland, where no horse or carriage has ever been permitted to enter, and where everything is kept with the most scrupulous neatness. Before entering many of the houses you are required to remove your shoes. It is said that even the Emperor of Russia was compelled

Great Britain have many improvements and institutions which have, as yet, found no existence here because our Legislature is behind that of the mother country. One of the most useful institutions established there is that of the Post Office Savings Banks. We have none here. These institutions afford the best indexes of working class prosperity; and those of England tell a cheerful tale. In 1865, the large sum of £2,053,312, or over \$10,000,000 was deposited, and the greater part of that amount has been invested in the purchase of Government securities. In 1862, the amount standing the credit of Post Office Savings Banks on the books of the Commissioners for the reduction of the National Debt was £1,659,032; and last year it had risen to £2,231,177, or above \$40,000,000. The fact is of great significance. The working classes are beginning to save with eagerness; they are becoming capitalists. The circumstance commends itself to the attention of political economists, as well as to that of Reformers and philanthropists.

A movement is said to be on foot in Hayti for recalling President Geffard. The Republic appears to be in a somewhat unsettled condition, though many of the sensational rumors received from there prove to be untrue.

A WOMAN VOTES.—The advocate of female suffrage in England are in ecstasies over the fact that one Liby Maxwell voted the other day at the Manchester election of Mr. Jacob Bright, brother of the celebrated Bright. Being a rate-payer, her name was put on the register, and prevented from voting, so attended by the President of the Female Society and a guard of honor, she went to the polls, amid abundant cheer and cheers, and voted for a member of Parliament. If one woman can vote for Jacob Bright, why not a thousand or a hundred thousand, vote in future elections?

New Advertisements.

Gard of Thanks.

We take this early opportunity of returning our sincere thanks to all those who kindly rendered their valuable assistance in saving Stock from the late fire at Alma Block.

JAMES MASSIE & CO.
Guelph, 10th December, 1867. d

CARD OF THANKS

I TAKE this early opportunity of returning my sincere thanks to all those who kindly rendered their valuable assistance at the late fire at Alma Block.

HENRY MULHOLLAND.
Guelph, 10th December, 1867. d

STRAYED HEIFER.

CAME on the premises of the subscriber some time last summer, a heifer rising two years old. The owner on proving property and paying expenses can take her away.

JOHN OWENS,
Lot 28, 1st Con, Div. D. Guelph Township.
Guelph, 10th December, 1867. w3

G. A. D. C.

FIRST APPEARANCE

OF THE
Guelph Amateur

DRAMATIC CLUB!

THE above Club will make their first appearance in the

TOWN HALL,

ON

Monday Evening, Dec. 30th,

On which occasion will be produced for the first time here George Almar's celebrated Drama, in two acts, entitled

"The Charcoal Burner,"

or "The Dropping Well of Knarshoro."

To conclude with an amusing afterpiece by all the members of the Club. For particulars see programme. Admission 25 cents; Reserved seats 50 cents. For sale at the Book and Drug Stores, and also by the Members of the Club.

MR. VALE, MORRIS ARMOUR, Manager.
Guelph, 14th December, 1867. dt1

MIDWIFERY.

MRS. MORRIS, Midwife. Residence, Essex Street, half way between the Market Square and Holiday's Brewery, first house east of Mr. Minnam's former residence.
Guelph, 13th December, 1867 dtm

NEW

FRUITS

The most complete,
The most choice,
The most select,
The Best and Cheapest

22 lbs. New Currants for . . \$1
11 lbs. New Valentin Raisins |
10 lbs. New Seedless Raisins |
8 lbs. New London Layer do. |
Orange and Lemon Peel, 30c.

FILBERTS!

Brazil Nuts, Walnuts,
Almonds, shelled or unshelled,
Figs, Prunes,
Dried Cherries and Cranberries
Orange marmos,
Dried and Green Apples,
Canned Fruits and
Vegetables

of every description.

HUGH WALKER,

Wholesale and Retail Fruit Dealer,
WYNDHAM STREET, GUELPH.
Guelph, 13th December, 1867. dw

TOWN OF GUELPH.

ALL CLAIMS

AGAINST the Corporation of the Town of Guelph must be presented forthwith, in order that they may be discharged and entered in this year's accounts.

JAMES HUGH,
Town Clerk and Treasurer.
Town Clerk's Office.

BRITISH AMERICAN COMMERCIAL COLLEGE.

PRIZE PENMANSHIP!

Superior Advantages Offered!

THE attention of young men looking forward to mercantile life is earnestly requested to the important arrangements of this College, which afford every possible advantage and facility for acquiring a thorough practical knowledge of business life and business habits. The great characteristic of this institution is its actual business system. It is not only the first College in British America in which the system was established, but likewise the only one in which that system is rationally, practically and efficiently carried out. The result is that any youth who passes carefully through the course is ready on getting his diploma to take his place behind the accountant's desk. Both, therefore, by right of priority and unexampled success this institution has secured in fact what by its name it professes to be.—THE BRITISH AMERICAN COMMERCIAL COLLEGE.

One of the direct means of attaining and holding this high position has been the constant and wary selection of thoroughly competent, conscientious and energetic teachers in each department. In the Writing department the First Prizes for the Business Penmanship were awarded to us at the Provincial Exhibitions of 1863, 1866, and 1867, the only occasion on which we competed. As this honor undoubtedly places this College at the top of the wheel, we shall always strive to maintain that superiority in this, as in all other branches of study which are characteristic of the institution. Plain legible business writing is the style to which we have ever given the most prominent place, our motto being "a business hand for a business man."

The time required to complete the full course varies considerably according to the attendance, attention and ability of each student. Young men, however, are earnestly cautioned against the injurious practice of hurrying through the course from the mistaken idea that they will thus be able to pay for the comparatively small additional expense of a few weeks' board in order to make himself completely master of the course, and thus by a small present outlay, qualify himself for some lucrative situation. The crudeness that such haste entails is highly detrimental not only to the student himself, but also to the College where he graduates, and besides it brings upon Commercial Colleges generally, the common practice, therefore, of holding out this crowding system as an inducement to students is most deceptive and highly reprehensible.

MUSGROVE & WRIGHT,
557 For penmanship, circulars, &c., address
Toronto, 6th Dec., 1867. dw Toronto.

Apothecaries' Hall,

MARKET SQUARE, GUELPH.

JUST RECEIVED!

A large supply of

SYDNEY BROWN'S

PERFUME

WATCHES!

Superior to either the "Russell" or "American" Watch, containing as it does a new and

DELIGHTFUL PERFUME

for the Handkerchief, unrivalled for the sweetness of its odour and lasting properties.

ALEX. B. PETRIE,
Chemist, Market Square,
Guelph, Dec. 7 1867. dw

LOOK OUT

For No. 1.

WILKINSON'S

BY going to WILKINSON'S for

OYSTERS

They are admitted by customers to be the best, largest and cheapest in Guelph.

FINNAN HADDIES

If you want real Finnan Haddies, fresh Cod Fish, fresh Haddock and Yarmouth Boaters, Go to GEO. WILKINSON'S.

SEALED GOODS!

FOR hermetically Sealed Goods, consisting of Strawberries, Lawton Blackberries, Peaches, Cherries, Tomatoes, Green Peas, Lobsters and Sardines, go to

GEO. WILKINSON'S.

FRUIT, FRUIT

BUY your Fruit at Wilkinson's, and save 20 per cent. To convince you of this fact, below are quotations.

10 pounds Layer Raisins for - \$1
10 " French Prunes - - 1
20 " Currants - - - 1

GEORGE WILKINSON.

Next door to Telegraph and Express Office.
Guelph, Dec. 9, 1867. daw if

CROSSE & BLACKWELL'S

English Goods!

Lea & Perrin's Worcestershire Sauce
Harvey's Sauce,
Anchor Sauce,
Mushroom Ketchup,
French and Spanish Olives,
Dunlop Marmalade,
Black and Red Currant Jelly,
Anchovy and Tomato Paste,
Green Gages, Damsons, Cherries, Plums,
Peaches, Gooseberries and Tomatoes.

At JOHN A. WOOD'S.
Guelph, November, 28, 1867. dw

NEW ADVERTISEMENTS.

FIRE! FIRE!

AT ALMA BLOCK!

THE SUBSCRIBERS BEG TO INTIMATE TO THEIR NUMEROUS CUSTOMERS AND THE PUBLIC THAT UNTIL LARGER PREMISES CAN BE PROCURED

THE RETAIL BUSINESS

WILL BE CARRIED ON AT THEIR STORE

IN DAY'S BLOCK,

where they hope to continue to receive the patronage of their friends during the season.

WHOLESALE TRADE

THE WHOLESALE TRADE WILL BE CARRIED ON AT

The Old 'Advertiser' Office, East Market Square.

Auction Sale of the Saved Stock!

At an early date the Stock saved from the late fire will be offered by AUCTION, and sold without reserve, due notice of which will be given.

J. MASSIE & CO.
Guelph 16th Dec. 1867. daw

CHRISTMAS BOXES.

WE WOULD INVITE THOSE ABOUT TO PURCHASE

CHRISTMAS PRESENTS

to step in and examine our stock, as it is larger and more varied than ever.

D. SAVAGE.
Guelph, December 14, 1867. dw

Christmas Goods,

HOLIDAY PRESENTS!

AT

CUTHBERT'S

BLANKETS

of Superior Home-made Twilled Blankets, extra heavy, for sale at half-price.

A. O. BUCHAM.
Guelph, December, 12th 1867. d

STORE for SALE

In the Village of Storton.

A GOOD STORE for general business, with commodious Dwelling House attached, and Stable in rear. Also, a BLACKS MITH SHOP with two forges. The shop is 20 x 30 feet; connected with this shop is a good Dwelling House. The buildings are all of frame, and put up within the last three years. These two properties will be sold together or separately for Cash or on Instalment. The Post Office is kept on the premises. For terms apply to

LEMON & PETERSON, Guelph
JOHN LUSON, Proprietor, Storton P.O.
Guelph, August 29, 1867 723-4f

Home Made BLANKETS.

In order to give you an opportunity of securing some of those celebrated Blankets at the Clearing Sale prices I will reserve until Saturday Evening, at 6 o'clock, 50 pairs of the Heaviest Twill, when they will then be sold at a still further reduction from regular sale prices. Heavy Twill, \$3.75; Extra Heavy do., \$4.50. Also a Job lot at \$2.50.

A. O. BUCHAM.
Guelph, 13th Dec., 1867. 2d

Private Boarding.

EXCELLENT accommodation and comfortable boarding can be had for five or six gentlemen in only three minutes' walk from the Market House. Apply to

WM. DYSON'S, sn., Waterloo-st.
Guelph, 27th Nov., 1867. 44f

Cordwood Wanted.

WANTED, 700 cords of good hard wood. Apply at Brown's Wood Yard, Woolwich-st., nearly opposite the Court House, Guelph.

ALEX. BROWN.
Guelph, 26th November, 1867. wem