

HURON SIGNAL.

FRIDAY, MARCH 24, 1848.

NEW ELECTIONS.

The four Upper Canadian Members (Messrs. Baldwin, Cameron, Price and Hincks), who are now honourable members of the Executive Council, will return immediately to solicit the production of their respective constituencies on the appointments which they have accepted. There is little doubt of their re-election, and therefore there is just as little necessity for bespeaking the good-will of the electors. But in order to illustrate the unprincipled duplicity of the disappointed faction, who voluntarily acknowledged that they were incapable of conducting the government, we may throw out a few remarks on the course they will pursue—for under the present circumstances they can have but one course which is consistent with their policy.—The new administration have offered no measure that can be introduced as the stalking bug-bear. The contemplated robbery of King's College, did not take at the late election; the religious principles of the insulated denominations rose up mightily against it, and hence it dare not be brought forward again. But something must be done. It would be ignominious to give up the ghost without an convulsive struggle. It would not be consistent with the chivalry of Toryism.—The Tories exist in all countries by insulting the understandings of the people. They can imagine any amount of gullibility in the great promiscuous mass, and therefore they think that they can, with impunity, offer any nostrum, however romantic or absurd. And on the present hopeless emergency, the unfortunate, the Hon. Louis Joseph Papineau, must submit to become the raw-head-and-blowsy-bones for the Tories of Kent, Oxford, and the First and Fourth Ridings of York. They are utterly incapable of manufacturing any other kind of nostrum or long-drawn-out at present; and therefore we hope that Mr. Papineau will just take it as easy as possible, and the result will be decisive evidence of two important facts: first, that the people of Upper Canada think for themselves, and second, that they are not in the least afraid of Mr. Papineau and his nine-and-twenty Resolutions; their confidence in their own Representatives, and their love and allegiance to the land of their nativity, are too well founded to be diminished by such trifling occurrences. This, however, will be the Tory alarm at the coming elections. French Ministry, French supremacy, French language, and French disloyalty or treason, all embodied in the single person of Louis Joseph Papineau: we wonder if they could not borrow the "cool-as-a-shove" of Lord George Gordon! The idea of the wooden shoes is decidedly the most sublime conception in the whole science of gulling. Just imagine Mr. Papineau strolling through the county of Kent dragging a pair of large clumsy ironwood shoes on his feet, and the ex-Solicitor General following in his trail ever and anon pointing emphatically to the shoes, and exclaiming—"There! electors of Kent! there is your doom if you return Malcolm Cameron! Such an exhibition would just be an admirable fine to the comedy of Canadian Toryism.

A FEW AFTER-THOUGHTS.

DEDICATED WITH THE URGENT DELIGHT TO THE GREAT PUBLIC IN GENERAL, AND TO THE READERS OF THE HURON SIGNAL IN PARTICULAR. The old Scotch proverb that "Foke has na' their wisdom aboot them at seime," has been verified in the serious omission perpetrated by us in the first issue of our paper. We did mention a few things which we intended to do, and a few things which we intended not to do, but we forgot a great many things belonging to both these classes of things; and this forget is beginning to lead occasionally to some unpleasant occurrences; and as we have an unequalled leaning to what we call the habits of blustering, that is, making a great number of large swelling promises, which conscience tells us shall never be able to fulfill. We say that we have an inveterate dislike to this inveterate habit; and therefore, we shall, in this article, satisfy our readers with regard to a number of things which we never intended to do. So that in future, we may be enabled to answer complaints in the language of the old Scotch farmer, who, when his herd-boy complained of bad vitals, said, "Why, callan, I hecht [promised] ye but few dainties, and just as few shall ye get." A man comes into our office, and after a like common-place conversation, asks quite importantly, "Why don't you publish an Extra from time to time?" Now, we never spoke—never even thought of publishing an extra! Our reasons, we think, are pretty strong. It is only to our subscribers in town that the extra could be conveyed, and before we could get up one-half in type, the contents of the extra would be known and talked over from one end of Goderich to the other. We might send bundles of them to the country post offices, but our subscribers would not know that we had published them, and therefore they would just lie till our next issue had been conveyed with useless postage. And the fact would be a very romantic fancy to entertain a few of the inhabitants of almost every town and village be-

between Goderich and Montreal, with paying the postage of an extra whose contents were known to most of them nearly a week before they reached us! But we have another, and to us, a more substantial reason for not publishing extras; it is this, the difficulty and expense of getting paper to Goderich, even to answer our weekly publication; keep us always so comfortably close by the head, that unless the extra could be printed on a separate, its publication is physically impossible! The reason for publishing extras is Goderich!!

The next symptom of gullibility is, "You have little English news—why don't you have a London Correspondent?" Now, really—honest simplicity, this is too odd. We can stand much—nay, we fancied ourselves prepared for almost anything in the shape of human absurdities, but we do not expect that this dose is rather strong for our nerves. A London Correspondent of the Huron Signal! Just look at it—think of it—meditate on it! Yes, yes—wonders and nonsense will never cease! Do just suppose us on this remote verge of the province, with a circulation of five or six hundred, paying sixteen pence for a private letter on every arrival of the English mail, when the same conveyance will bring us a copy of Wilmer and Smith's European Times, or the London Examiner, for one-third of the cost, any one of which contains as much London news as our correspondent could cram into a whole dozen of letters, and of a far more credible and official nature, than can be obtained from the generalship of private correspondents. It may do well enough for the British Colonist, the Globe, the Pilot, or such widely circulated papers to have London correspondents. They have the means and the patronage to warrant such correspondence; besides they have the respectability that will enable them readily to obtain men of talent and distinction to act in this capacity, and we are happy in being blest with the benefit of their private correspondence without paying for it. But to think of a London correspondent for the humble and obscure Huron Signal, who is only acquainted with the Toms, Dicks and Herrys of the great Metropolis, would certainly be an aggravation of "Fudge!" We do not know the meaning of this very refined word, but we are like the old man who was asked what he meant by the phrase "abstract sinners," which he used in his daily prayer; he said he was sure he did not mean anything, for it was used by the great Ralph Erskine. We are sure that "fudge" means something, for we have seen it used triumphantly by great authors!

However, as our circulation and respectability are daily increasing, there is a probability that we may be compelled to establish a London correspondence; and as there is neither credit nor profit in having any dealings with our old friends who are not known to any person beyond the precincts of the dirty, dark lane or alley, in which they reside,—we have resolved upon "making an arrangement" with a man of distinction, namely, "Tom More of Fleet Street," whose notoriety, founded on his connexion with a speaking Jackdaw, is almost universal and everlasting; for Tom is one of those Wandering Jew—yes, throughout the world for ages, and he will continue to be popular and admired for ages yet to come! The very name of such an illustrious man as London correspondent to the Signal, would, of itself, render us independent in a short time.

But to be serious, we must honestly inform our readers, that we do most heartily desire to bluster; every thing in the shape of shams and gulling does receive our unqualified reprobation; and therefore we wish it to be distinctly understood, that we have not the slightest intention of publishing extras; of employing a London correspondent, of publishing two editions weekly, nor of referring to whole columns of advertisements from China, Kafferland or Yankee town, in proof of our extensive circulation. In fact, the opinion which we hold of the inhabitants of Huron, so far as we are acquainted with them, convinces us that such childish attempts to insult their understanding; and therefore we never intruded, and do not now promise, any more extravagances. We did not even intend to make our humble sheet the exclusive vehicle of parliamentary proceedings, which are known to at least three-fourths of our readers as soon as they are known to us, and to many of them much earlier. We will, for the benefit of our country subscribers, give an abstract of the passing politics of the day; and the substance of such speeches as contain the development of important political principles, or an exposition of any measure which may be interesting to the country. But the idea of enlightening the people of Goderich with the proceedings of Parliament, which they had read in the Montreal papers a week before hand, is only equalled in absurdity by the idea of the "London correspondent."

The use of a country newspaper does not consist so much in telling the people of the neighbourhood what the rest of the world are doing, as in telling the rest of the world whatever is interesting in its own locality. It is the representative of its own constituency; and a county or district wanting a newspaper, is like a constituency wanting a representative. In short, our intention was, and is, to represent the condition and interests of Huron; and in addition to a condensed summary of Parliamentary intelligence, to bring before our readers much useful information, not only on the subject of civil policy, but on every subject calculated to promote the intellectual and moral prosperity of man; and whether our articles for this purpose may be original or selected, we shall study plainness and simplicity of style and manner, so that all who read may understand. We do not regard ourselves as writing for any party or ministry; we wish to write for the people. We covet no place, nor pension, nor patronage—save the patronage of so many subscribers as will enable us to live; and as long as we can obtain this, without any compromise of principle, we are willing to employ our humble abilities in conducing to what we consider the public good. And if we fail in obtaining support, upon these terms, we are proud in having been accustomed to labour; and which we can handle a mallet and chisel, or a hammer and trowel, we will never condescend to be troubled with useless postage. And the fact would be a very romantic fancy to entertain a few of the inhabitants of almost every town and village be-

MENTAL IMPROVEMENT.

The achievements of the human mind have been perhaps more numerous and more important during the last fifty years, than they were during the preceding five centuries; and although the philosophy of mind—that is, the study of its nature and capabilities—has been pursued with an unprecedented earnestness; and although much valuable information on the subject has been obtained by experiment and vigilant observation,—still, considering as the most important and most generally interesting of all subjects, it is yet a matter of wonder that it occupies so comparatively little attention. It has, however, been often remarked that there is a sort of proneness in man to gaze, and wonder, and admire,—to perceive and be dazzled with the beauties and sublimities of distant phenomena, while he overlooks entirely the equal beauties and sublimities that are centered on his every-day path. For example, we are filled with admiration on contemplating the rays of light refracting the gorgeous colours of the rainbow, and we feel curious and a desire to know something of their nature; but the architecture and beauty of the modest wild wood flower afford equal ground of admiration, and we heedlessly tread it under foot. In like manner we are struck with wonder, and amazement, and exultation, when we behold the steamship, the locomotive engine, the magnetic telegraph, and the other thousand astonishing analitizations, combinations, and decompositions, effected by chemical agencies; but although these various discoveries, inventions and applications, have resulted from something within ourselves which must be far more valuable and more wonderful than its productions, we scarcely ever think of analyzing or investigating the nature or qualities of these wonderful powers of the human mind, in just as much the result of physical agency and physical circumstances as the magnetic telegraph, or the steamship. And of all the biographies that have ever been published, the biography of a human mind would certainly be the most interesting. In order to be properly understood, we must give a few explanations: and first, we do not pretend to know what mind is. Our knowledge of its powers or capabilities, is gathered from common observation; this observation teaches us that these capabilities differ in different individuals, as it is vulgarly expressed, there are strong minds and weak minds. That a certain portion of this difference is attributable to the natural organization of the brain, or the peculiar quality of the original mental seeds is evident from the fact that no two human minds are ever found to be exactly alike, even when cultivated and acted on by the same external circumstances. But that these circumstances do exert a great influence in the production of this difference, is abundantly obvious from the universal admission that our notions of a strong or superior mind is derived from the quantity or quality of the ideas which it puts forth, and we do know that all ideas are produced or suggested by external circumstances. It will scarcely be supposed, even by the most illiterate, that an Indian who had never mixed in civilized society, can know anything of modern mechanics, nor invent or construct a steam engine, nor understand his incapacity for the achievement arise entirely from the inferiority of his mental organization; for it may safely be presumed, that even James Watt, with his own mechanical mind, if brought up under Indian circumstances, could never have produced a steam engine. Such a production can only result from a combination of ideas, which could not possibly be suggested by Indian circumstances. We hope we have now enabled the reader to comprehend distinctly our meaning of the proposition that the wonderful powers of the human mind are produced by physical agency; namely, that these powers result from a combination of ideas created or suggested by external circumstances. In speaking of the biography of the human mind, we mean a simple narrative of the various circumstances which suggested the various ideas; the association of these ideas and their influence on the general character of the individual. Every man has undergone the operation of this process of mind-making, and has received from it a distinct peculiar character. Every one of us are daily experiencing a continuation of it in his own person, and looking upon its origin and progress in infants, and yet perhaps not one of us could deliver himself of six rational ideas on the subject. We have been dwelling in the clouds, gazing on the stars, examining the moon, measuring the planets, and ransacking and scrutinizing the recesses of eternal nature, and then we marvel and admire, and extol the wonderful powers of the human mind, which can accomplish such magnificent achievements, but we forget to think how very few human minds are possessed of these capabilities, or how far the production of these wonderful powers depends upon ourselves. We believe honestly that every child enters the world with only a single idea, that its feeble efforts in search of its mother's breast or other sustenance, do not result from thought but from feeling; and that its first nourishment communicates its first idea. We have frequently seen an infant smile upon the nurse's lap before it was an hour old; but we never imagined that the smile was caused by some pleasing thought passing across the mind, we regarded it merely involuntary; but a greivable affliction of the nerves. These involuntary affections are more strikingly exhibited in nervous convulsion fits, where strange contortions of the features, quivering of the lips, fluttering of the tongue, furious motion of the eyes and eyelids, and even a guttural expression of the voice are put forth unconsciously and apparently without pain; so that all the movements of a newly born infant may be sufficiently accounted for without the supposition of thoughts or ideas. Our reason for supposing that it receives an idea with its first nourishment, is that in cases where it has received first the sustenance which nature provided for it, we have observed that when lying on the knee or on the bosom, it is inclined to believe about the right place, and we cannot see that this sagacity is either the result of instinct or nervous affection. But it is certain, that if sensible impressions can be communicated to the mind at this early period, their existence must be very transient, owing to the soft and changeable nature of the material substance to which they are attached; and the infant is pre-

vented from forgetting its mother's breast simply by its constant familiarity with it. It is here, then, that mental improvement, or rather mental existence commences; and upon the subsequent treatment and circumstances, depend the quality and quantity of ideas, the greatness or smallness of the future human mind in a very important degree. We have formerly remarked, that the natural organization differs in different individuals, certain portions or convolutions of the brain are larger in some than in others; this difference in the majority of classes, probably arises from the law of hereditary transmission, or from some peculiarity in the conduct of the parents (more especially of the mother); hence the susceptibility of receiving impressions or ideas from a particular class of circumstances is much stronger in some than in others. We know that certain portions of the brain are appropriated to the location of certain susceptibilities, and that the size and quality of the one determines the acuteness and strength of the other; we know that these susceptibilities are not in the brain nor the ideas, and further we know that they constitute all that we know abstractly of that mysterious thing called mind. And it is probable that upon the certain existence of these susceptibilities, Locke and others erected the doctrine of innate ideas, the error of which consists simply in substituting the cause for the effect, or the power for the act. But though it could be demonstrated that a child enters the world with certain ideas or latent thoughts, the fact would be of little service, as we are all aware that every idea which has been practically servicable to us, was derived from experience and observation; therefore the inherent ideas must have expended themselves very early as we can recollect nothing of either their nature or use.

LITERATURE.

Of the numerous things that compose national greatness, there is nothing either so powerful or so permanent as Literature. It is a transcript—a written embodiment of the national mind, and seems to labor, to a considerable extent, in the imperishable store of the original. Besides it is the depository—the embalming arsenal of all the other components of national greatness.—The warlike glory, the manners and customs—the feats and festivals—the athletic sports and olympic games, the oracles and predictions, the nationality, and even the language of the ancient Hebrews, Greeks, and Romans, have all but perished from the earth. Their Literature alone remains to tell us of their greatness and their glory. Even such will be the doom of the empires of modern civilization! A few centuries will roll the dark pall of forgetfulness over the splendours of their warfare—their victories—their extensive dominion—their opinions—their civil policy—their commercial speculations and their manners, customs, and amusements, but their Literature will endure while the world stands. It is both the cause and effect of civilization and national greatness, and the country that would occupy a prominent position in the scale of nations can only hope for success from the number and quality of her literary productions. The Literature of Canada, as might reasonably be expected, is very limited. The necessity to labour for subsistence, the want of proper and equal mediums of communication—the scarcity of money—the scattered population, and the comparatively little social intercourse, common to all new countries, afford but little encouragement to literary enterprise. It is true that poverty cannot freeze the fountain of genius, but it often congests the channel through of the mind cannot be blotted out by difficulties or adverse circumstances, but they are frequently breathed in the atmosphere of solitude and obscurity, which chills their fervor before they have ripened into effect. Canada, however, has begun to rise above these withering circumstances, and we have already sufficient evidence that the contains the elements of a national literature. There are now in the Province several Literary Periodicals, some of which would be considered no mean ornaments in the publications of older and more educated countries. In particular we would refer in the first place, to the "Literary Garland," as being the oldest and the most widely circulated. It is true that it has now entered its eleventh year with increased beauty and popularity. It is published by Lovell and Gibson, Montreal, and has many Contributors not only clever, but really talented. The present number is embellished with a graphic and neatly executed engraving of St. Regis, an Indian village. The literary contents are numerous and varied. "Joan Redgrave, a Village Story," by Mrs. Moodie, is, so far as published, a beautiful specimen of the strong imaginative powers and chaste diction of the writer. "The Last Sigh of the Moor," by Andrew L. Pickens, is Poetry of a superior kind. But our feelings, if not our judgment, is sometimes influenced by early associations, and what is dearest to us in the present number of the "Garland," is the Grave of our once-loved, and still dearly remembered friend William Motherwell, Esq., by Edmund Hugonson, which we shall take the liberty of transferring to the columns of the next Signal. We would refer to the "Victoria Magazine" as a Canadian Periodical, of which the country ought to be proud. Mrs. Moodie, under her maiden name, Miss Susannah Strickland, was a favourite almost as far back as we can recollect anything of Poetry; and although she seems to have grown lazy at rhyming, her articles in the Magazine give evidence that her imagination is as ever as young, and as vigorous, and as poetical as just. Mrs. Moodie possesses a fair proportion of the Post, and a much larger share of those qualities that constitute a shrewd practical common-sense writer. We love his manner and the honest goodness of his heart.—We are glad to understand that the circulation of the "Victoria Magazine" is increasing and we do hope that all who are solicitous for the formation of a refined and correct taste in Canada, or who are ambitious of associating the idea of national greatness with our common country will extend their patronage to such efforts in Literature.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

MONDAY, MARCH 13. The House was occupied entirely with routine business—presentation and reading petitions being the order of the evening. A great number of petitions were read and laid on the table—among them the petition of the farmers of the county of York for a future day for further investigation of the petition against the return of the hon. Mr. Baldwin for the Fourth Riding of York was withdrawn. Several hours were occupied in warm discussion relative to the petition against the return of the hon. member for Beauport, in consequence of some informality respecting the seal and signature of the Justice of Peace which the rules of the House require should be affixed. The discussion was now closed, but it was contended by Mr. CARRUTHERS and some other members that the said seal was not affixed when the petition was first presented.—The notice of objection was finally postponed on the motion of Mr. DRUMMOND, till a future day for further investigation. It was separately moved and adopted, that the hon. Speaker should issue his warrants for writs for a new election of one member for the City of Quebec, one member for the County of Montreal, for Terrebonne, for the Fourth and Second Ridings of York. It was then moved by Mr. NOTMAN, that the enquiry into the petition of Mr. Carroll against the return of Mr. Hincks, for the county of Oxford, be taken up on Wednesday at 10 o'clock. This was objected to by Mr. J. H. CANNING, on the ground that Mr. Hincks had not entered into his recognizance, and could not waive them, not being a member of the House. The discussion was still going on when we went to press, and promised to occupy a long time in settling. The new Members of the Executive Council were not present in the House yesterday, in consequence of having resigned their seats, until re-elected, in taking office; but they were nearly all seen at different periods of the evening behind the Speaker's chair. A rumour prevails, and is generally credited, that the parliament will be prorogued in the course of this week, until the autumn; but nothing of the matter was broached in the House yesterday, which has business before it for every day of the week.

TWO LADIES KILLED ON THE RAILROAD.—As the afternoon train of cars, on Thursday evening, was passing from Fitchburg to Athol, Mass., on the Vermont and Massachusetts line, and when near the crossing, about a mile and a half above the depot in Fitchburg, a horse and sleigh with two ladies passed the railroad, when the horse became frightened and backed to the sleigh on the track, by which both the ladies were thrown out in front of the engine, run over, and instantly killed.—The engine, as soon as the horse was seen to back, sounded the alarm, and the train was nearly stopped when the fatal collision took place. The unfortunate ladies who thus lost their lives were Mrs. Osborn, wife of Abraham Osborn of Fitchburg, and her daughter, Mrs. Jacob Tolman, of West Sterling. The head of one was severed from the body.

UP The steamer America left Toronto for Rochester on the 15th inst. The Eclipse to Hamilton, and Chief Justice to Niagara, are making regular daily trips from the former city.

DOINGS OF THE OPPOSITION.

From the Hamilton Sentinel. Her Majesty's glorious minority in the House of Assembly have already given evidence of their intention to annoy the new administration as much as possible, and to throw every obstacle in their way that ingenuity can possibly devise. Specially had the names of the new ministry been made public, when petitions were presented against the return of the Hon. F. Hincks for Oxford, and the Hon. R. Baldwin for the Fourth Riding of York. This course of conduct is as unprecedented as it is ungenerous. It shows the length the tory party will go to obstruct the intentions, and thwart the designs of their political opponents, but it will not bring them one whit nearer the desired end—namely, the resumption of legislative power. These petitions will only have the effect of creating a little uncalculated and unprofitable discussion in the House. They will not alter the position of the sitting members, nor add one vote to the numerical strength of the opposition; but they will consume a portion of the valuable time of members, and entail an additional expense upon the country.

If Peter Carroll, after having slunk ignominiously out of the House, supposed for a moment that he could defeat Mr. Hincks in Oxford, why did he not wait until he could have an opportunity of meeting him at the hustings. Mr. Hincks' appointment to the office of Inspector General, renders it necessary that he should immediately come before his constituents, and Mr. Carroll would then have had another opportunity of testing his popularity. But no—this would have been a course too dignified and honorable for him to pursue. He did not care to present himself to the indignation and insulted electors of Oxford, but he has petitioned against the return of Mr. Hincks, on the ground of the insufficiency of his qualification; and by this means strive to embarrass the Ministry as much as possible while the matter is being investigated. Peter's name has now been long enough before the public, connected with a matter so disgraceful as to be condemned even by many of the party to whom he professes attachment, and if he had possessed a grain of common sense, he would not allow himself to be made a cat's paw in the present instance. We are sorry to see that the member for Hamilton has lent himself to the support of Peter's petition. He has had experience enough in these matters to know that the subject will be dismissed "as both frivolous and veracious;" but probably he wants to give Peter another hoist in the scale of public opinion, and place him in a still darker light before his countrymen, by being investigated. Peter's name has now been long enough before the public, connected with a matter so disgraceful as to be condemned even by many of the party to whom he professes attachment, and if he had possessed a grain of common sense, he would not allow himself to be made a cat's paw in the present instance. 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