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FRANCIS SMEETH,
Goderich.

OUT IN THE WEST.

Interesting Letter From Mr.
Jas. Thomson.

What the Goderich contingent is doing—
The Ups and Downs of Prairie Pioneer-
Life—Appointments to Office—The Crop
Reports—Advice to Intending Emigrants.

The following letter from Major Jas.
Thomson, formerly town clerk of Gode-
rich, to his brother, will prove of inter-
est to many of our readers, and we
therefore give it a place in our columns:
Drayton, Pembina Co., D. T.,
Nov. 20th, 1882.

You ask me to let you know how I
have got on in my farming operations in
this western country during the past
year, and as the other friends who came
out with me have, no doubt, many who
are enquiring after them, I purpose, as
far as I can, to give you an idea of how
they have succeeded. We commenced
sowing on the 29th of April, and finished
the 2nd of June; the late sowing was in
some wet places. The grain came up
beautifully, when on the 21st of May a
snow storm came and cut it down very
much. However, it recovered. Then we
had a long spell of drought, and the crops
seemed to wither away; mine never re-
covered. I cannot account for this on
any other ground than that I have un-
fortunately a good deal of alkali in my
soil.

I paid a
visit to Messrs. Halcrow, Wilson and
Pharis, and compared mine with theirs,
and found they had every prospect of a
good crop. As the season advanced I
gave up hopes of having more than half
a crop, and the result proved I was cor-
rect. However, we had to get imple-
ments to cut it just as much as though
it was a good one. Well, we got it all
down and "stocked," and got the thresh-
ing machine, and threshed from the
stock. I had 1040 bushels by mill mea-
surement—not quite 10 bushels to the
acre of wheat. I had also 550 bushels
of oats, making a total of 1590 bushels
of grain—just about half I should have
had. However, those who profess to
know say my land will improve each
year, and ultimately be the best land.
So mote it be; but it is hard on a be-
ginner. I have this summer "broke" 90
acres additional which will give me over
200 for next year. I am sorry also to
say that the price of wheat is very low,
it is selling from 60c to 80c. It requires
to be dry, hard and clean. So you see
we sell all our wheat we would not have
a great return for our labor. But I will
require to keep about 350 bushels for
seed and flour. We had a very fair
crop of potatoes and they were beautiful
ones. Regarding our friend Halcrow,
he had about 100 acres in, and he would
have had about 1800 bushels of grain,
but he was unfortunate enough to have
5 stacks burned, each of which contained
100 bushels, this is a severe loss to him,
and he has the sympathy of all the
neighbors. It was caused by a prairie
fire which came sweeping along with
great velocity, and although Mr. Hal-
crow had a fire break around, yet it
leaped the slight barrier and caught the
stacks, which soon were enveloped in
flames. He has done a good summer's
work. He will have about 230 acres
ready for crop next year. Mr. B. Wil-
son has done well. He had 65 acres un-
der cultivation, and has of wheat, oats
and barley about 1300 bushels. He has
broken about 40 acres this year, which
will give him over 100 for next year.
This he has accomplished principally
with his own hands, having had only a
hired man during this season. It is few
men who could in one season accomplish
as much as this. He is much encourag-
ed, and he has reason to be. A Cox
had about 22 acres in oats from which
he got 700 bushels. Under all the circum-
stances this is a very good crop. J.
Pharis has not yet threshed, but his
wheat will go at least 20 bushels to the
acre. He had the finest crop of pota-
toes I ever saw, numerous and large.
R. R. Thompson had a splendid crop;
so also had F. Davis. They had about
35 bushels to the acre. The land in
this location has produced surprising-
ly large crops. Geo. Buttery who came
from Strathroy with, from 85 acres
had 3300 bushels of grain. His oats went
over 100 bushels to the acre, and Chas.
Parker, also from Strathroy, and one of
our party, had wheat which went nearly
40 bushels to the acre, and his oats were
so heavy that they could not be cut with
the binder. Mr. Jas. Tisdale had also
a splendid crop, about 25 bushels to the
acre. He has not on splendidly consid-
ering the adverse circumstances he has
had to contend with. He lost two of his
daughters since coming out. They were
cut off by a slow fever. He had the full
sympathy of the whole community.
Mrs. Tisdale is bearing up under her
loss as well as can be expected. The loss
of horses or grain is but enough, but to
lose those we love is much worse. Jas.
Ball, I hear, has a large crop of pota-
toes. He has rented land and had a good
crop. He has opened a furniture store
in the rising town of St. Thomas. He
will do well. We are anxiously looking
for a railway on the west side of the Red
River, as the road further west can't
carry the grain away that is coming
in and if, it can't do it this year I do not
know what will be done next. We hear
that the Grand Trunk is making ar-
rangements to come up on the west side
of the river, and we were much sur-
prised, but our hopes were not alto-
gether ungrounded. The Canadian Govern-
ment has lowered charters in Manitoba,
and a road will be built, even if we
have to do it ourselves.

excellent season for breaking, as con-
siderable rain fell after July, and a very
large amount has been done. I should
say on an average people have doubled
their acreage for next year. We have
had a very pleasant summer and fall.
The season closed on the 8th of Novem-
ber, a heavy frost stiffened the ground
up to that plowing became impossible.
It closed last year on the 9th. We have
about 40 acres of stubble to plow in the
spring; we had to return so much help
at threshing that it hindered us from get-
ting finished. Threshing is going on
lively. From my house I sometimes
can see 4 steam threshers and one horse
power at work, and yet a great amount
of grain is yet in the stack. If the
threshers get through by Christmas it is
as much as they will do. The steamer
I had uses straw for fuel, which is quite
a consideration where wood is so scarce.
It is also a traction engine, and when it
gets through work, starts off for the next
place without the aid of horses. But it
is better to put one team on in order to
steer the machine, although a man can
do so, as it steers as easy as a wagon.
Our work for the next two months will
be drawing our grain to market at St.
Thomas, and getting up wood. We are
12 miles from St. Thomas, can go and
get back easily in one day. We are
having beautiful weather. As I write it
is as soft and mild as a spring day. It
now takes nearly all the time of one of
us to attend to the feeding, watering
and cleaning of the stock, which consists
of 5 horses, 1 yoke of oxen, 3 cows, 1
bull, 2 calves, 2 pigs and a lot of fowl.
Herb has gone to St. Paul for the win-
ter. James and his family are in St.
Thomas. He has a good place, and all
the work he can do, so George, and
Oscar are left to run the farm. Oscar,
although only ten years of age, has run
the oxen this fall, and plowed about an
acre a day. John Halcrow about the
same age has plowed all season with
oxen, and averaged his acre per day. So
you see how soon children can be useful
in this country. But it is at the ex-
pense of their education. Still we will
soon have schools. We are now or-
ganized into townships, having our own
officers. They consist of 3 supervisors
(or councillors), a clerk, treasurer, as-
sessor, two justices of the peace, an over-
seer of roads, a pound keeper, and two
constables. Mr. J. Halcrow is one of
the supervisors for our township, and I
am clerk, and one of the justices of the
peace. R. R. Thompson is one of the
supervisors for his township and James
Tweedie was elected probate judge by a
very large majority. Mr. R. H. Young,
editor of the Northern Express was elect-
ed registrar of deeds by over 200 majori-
ty. And now after being in the coun-
try nearly two years, my opinion of it is
this:—That as far as farming is concern-
ed it is just the place for a young man,
but for one who is up in years the work
is too much. The season is short, and
although there is really no heavy strain-
ing work such as has to be gone through
with on a bush farm, still you must be at
it early and late and every day in order
to get it all through, for people here are
so ambitious to have large farms that
the work to be got through is enormous.
Just think, one man will work 100 acres,
with perhaps a little help during seeding
and harvest, and so in proportion to the
help in the family will they go on enlarg-
ing their acreage. Land is raising fairly
in value. Farms are now worth from
\$1000 to \$3000, according to location.
So I would say to a young man or mid-
dle aged man who is strong, do not be
afraid to come. To commercial men
with a fair capital this country presents
a better field than it does to the farmer.
The new towns starting up in all direc-
tions offer great inducements, and a
very large trade is being done in the
staple articles. Merchants as a rule are
all making money fast. Very little
credit is given, and when given a chattel
mortgage is asked on your horses or
oxen for the amount, and that must be
given before you can have the goods.
So the merchant is safe. To the capital-
ist a good opening presents itself. First
mortgages can be had on farms at 9 and
10 per cent. People are constantly
proving up and paying the government
for their land borrowing the money to
do so. Mechanics of all kinds are re-
quired, and in the towns find ready em-
ployment at good wages. The cost of
living is much the same as with you.
Wood can be had on the Red River at
from \$2.50 to \$3 a cord; flour \$2.50 to
\$3 per hundred; cotton goods are cheap;
woolens are somewhat dearer than in
Ontario; sugar 9 to 11 lbs. for the \$;
fresh beef 12c to 14c; mess pork 13c;
rolled spiced bacon 22c; butter 40c; Eggs
30c. Farming implements cover the fol-
lowing: seeder \$65; mower from \$85 to
\$95; self-binder harvester \$320; a dis-
count on those prices of 10 or 12 per
cent for cash. There is at present about
eleven million acres of land opened for
settlement in the Turtle Mountain and
Devil's Lake districts. An enormous
emigration is expected to set in to oc-
cupy those lands. It is now almost im-
possible to get a claim in any other part
of the country. But railroads are being
run for those lands, and will be there in
time to give the settlers accommodation.
From parties who have been in those
districts, I learn that the land is of ex-
cellent quality. I often wonder what
will wheat be worth when all this vast
country including Manitoba and the
North-west is under cultivation. I am
almost inclined to think it will be so
cheap as not to pay the cost of raising.
No one who has not seen the country
can realize the vast extent of grain bear-
ing land, and so much can and will be
cultivated in the next ten years that it
must produce a marked effect on the
grain market. Every person here has
great confidence in the future of the
North-west; even the suicidal policy of
governments cannot prevent, but may
hinder, its rapid progress. I have often
been told of the management of Ameri-
can affairs by rings, and needy politicians
had to be bought in order that a man
may get his rights, but I have not seen
or heard of one instance of the kind.
On the contrary the land laws are fram-
ed for the equal protection of the poor
and rich, and they are faithfully admin-
istered, every bona fide settler gets his
land, and wherever he can find an unoccu-
pied lot. I often think if you were to re-
turn to your stone factory to some of our
rising cities, such as Fargo or Grand
Forks, you would do a very large trade
as there is a very scarce article. You

GREAT EXHIBITION

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FANCY GOODS, &c., &c.,

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Christmas and New Year's Presents.

All the New Goods Were Bought From the Manufacturers,

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Now, having had fifteen years' experience in the Book, Stationery and Fancy Goods Business, and therefore knowing exactly where, and at what price to buy the most suitable goods, enables me to give my customers the best goods at the lowest price, and which I pledge myself to do.

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Pearl Card Cases.
Leather Card Cases.
Smoking Sets.
Toilet Sets.
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Ink Stands.
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Gold Pens and Pencils.
Pocket Books.

Presentation Annual Volumes of all kinds and other goods too numerous to mention.

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JAMES IMRIE, Successor to T. J. Moorhouse.

would do well to think the matter over.
I am quite sure you will remove out
here and give your business as much at-
tention as you do in Goderich, you
would receive a much larger remunera-
tion. As to my personal feelings re-
garding living in this country, I would
rather live in Goderich were it possible,
for there are a great many social induc-
ments that you cannot enjoy here. And
although I do not consider that I have
derived any very decided advantage by
coming to this country, my children have.
They who are old enough have
good, valuable claims. That places
them at once in as good a position as I
am in. This is what led me here, and
my wishes on that point were accomplish-
ed. But I do not say I will not return
to Goderich when I get a large farm un-
der cultivation. I may possibly rent it
and live elsewhere, and at present I do
not know of any place I would prefer to
old Goderich. My wife is quite an en-
thusiast over this country, she likes it
and thinks we have bettered our condi-
tion very greatly. She only wishes she
was a younger woman, so that she could
do a greater amount of work. It is well
when that side of the house feels so. In
fact all the women of our party are quite
satisfied with the change in their circum-
stances. Mr. George Achison is one of
our largest and most successful farmers.
He has secured good men in the persons
of Mr. B. Warner and Wilkins. They
will cultivate 400 acres next year. He
had a good crop this year.

JAS. THOMSON.

C. L. W.

Mr. P. Strang has been re-engaged to
teach school at St. John's, Colborne, at
an advance in salary.

HARRIS.
An horse sold. Mr. Charles Young, of
this place, has sold his dark iron gray
horse to Mr. Polley, of Goderich, for the
handsome sum of \$200.

DEED.
In Colborne, on 18th inst. Maria Strothers, re-
lict of the late N. Strothers, Dunganston.

At St. Peter's Church, Goderich, on the 22nd
ult., by the Rev. Father Watters, Mr. Jas.
Tobin, of Colborne, to Miss Sarah O'Meara
of Goderich.

At St. Peter's Church, Goderich, on the 28th
ult., by the Rev. Father Gahan, Mr. Alex.
Chisholm, of Goderich, to Miss Sarah
Orr, of the same place.

In the R. C. Church, Blyth, on Nov. 27th 1882,
by Rev. Father O'Connor, Mr. John Mc-
Caughy, of Blyth, to Miss Martha Boyle,
of Wawanosh.

On Wednesday, Nov. 29th, at the residence of
the bride's mother, by the Rev. J. A. Turn-
bull, B. A., Mr. James Watson, to Miss
Dorothea, second daughter of Mrs. S.
Howell, of Smith's Bay.

At Hillsdale, Dundas, on the 29th ult., by
the Rev. Jas. Graham, Mr. Horace Foster,
photographer of Clinton, to Miss Sarah
youngest daughter of Edward Lyons, Esq.
of Dundas.

FOR SALE OR TO RENT.—THAT
Valuable Property known as the Shep-
ard Store and Post Office, with quarter of
an acre of land, is offered for sale or to rent.
Stock in store all new and fresh this year. The
proprietor has other business which will re-
quire his sole attention. Also the west half of
lot 5, con. 3, E.D. Ashfield, all new land; two
good orchards, two good wells, and comfort-
able frame houses. The lot contains 100 acres,
of which 50 are cleared and all well fenced.
Remains 50 acres heavily timbered with
hardwood. For particulars address: R. T.
HAYNES, Shepards P.O.

MAITLAND HOTEL, GODERICH
ONT.
The above new and first-class house, close to
the Railway Station and convenient to the
town, is second to none in Ontario, for com-
fort and accommodation. Is heated by Hot
Air.

12 SALINE BATHS, SWIMMING BATH
Croquet Lawn and garden on the premises.
Hot and cold meals at all hours, for travellers.
An Omnibus to and from boats and cars con-
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rietor.

Travelling Guide.
GRAND TRUNK
EAST.
Pass. Exp. Mtd. Mtd. Mtd.
Goderich, Lv. 5.15 am. 12.30 pm. 3.15 pm 5.30 am
WEST.
Pass. Exp. Mtd. Mtd. Mtd.
Goderich, Ar. 3.15 pm. 9.30 pm. 3.30 am. 7.15 pm
STAGE LINES.
Lucknow Stage (daily) arr. 10.15 am. dep. 4 pm
Lindsay 1.00 am. 1.00 pm

Consorial.

W. KNIGHT, PRACTICAL BAR-
BER and Hair-dresser, begs to return
thanks to the public for past patronage, and
solicits a continuance of custom. He can
always be found at his Shaving Parlor, near
Post Office Goderich.

DISSOLUTION OF PARTNER-
SHIP.
Notice is hereby given that the partnership
heretofore existing between Alexander Mor-
ton and Moses Cressman under the name and
firm of Morton & Cressman, carriage builders,
in this day dissolved by mutual consent. Alex-
ander Morton to collect all accounts and to
pay all liabilities of the late firm.

Wm. Fridham, witness.
Dated this 6th day of Nov. 1882.
In reference to the above I have pleasure in
stating that I will continue the business, and
hope by attending to the wants of the trade to
merit a share of patronage.

ALEX. MORTON.

ALLAN LINE.
WINTER ARRANGEMENTS.
SAILINGS.—MAIL LINE.

LONDONDERRY AND LIVERPOOL.
Sarmatian—from Boston, Nov. 30th. From
Halifax, Dec. 2nd.
Polynesian—from (Baltimore) Halifax, Dec. 9th.
Sardinian—from Boston, Dec. 14th.
Parisian—from (Baltimore) Halifax, Dec. 13th.
Caspien—from Boston, Dec. 28.
Peruvian—from (Baltimore) Halifax, Jan. 6th.
Sarmatian—from Boston, Jan. 11th.
Halifax, Jan. 30th.

Last train leaves Toronto with the Mails
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ing, connecting with the Steamer at Halifax.

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DIRECT LINE FROM PORTLAND.
SAILINGS.

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at 7:45 a.m. A Pullman Drawing-room and
Sleeping Car will be attached to this Train,
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convenience of passengers proceeding by the
Saturday's Steamship.

The Steamships of the Allan Line leave for
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For tickets and every information apply to
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An Omnibus to and from boats and cars con-
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rietor.

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CAPITAL—\$15,000,000.
RESERVE—\$5,000,000.

Goderich Branch.
D. GLASS—Manager.

Allows interest on deposits. Drafts, let-
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AND
Geo. H. Old

has made great preparations to receive it.
He has a specially fine line in
raisins consisting of
London Layer,
Saltana,
Muscatel,
and Valencia,
at prices to suit the housekeepers throughout
the section.

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of every kind in
GREAT PROFUSION.

Also a large assortment of Fancy Goods in
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consisting of Toilet Sets, Cups and Saucers,
Vases, &c., &c.

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regular

Grocery Business

has been kept well up the mark, and both
Shelves and Cellars are Full

of
FIRST-CLASS GOODS

which he intends to
Exchange for Cash

during the Holiday Season.
TEAS A SPECIALTY.

If you want value for your money, go to
G. H. OLD.

TIMOTHY SEED.

FRESH and GOOD.

THIS YEAR'S GROWTH.
—AT—
S. SLOAN'S
SEED STORE.
\$5 to \$20 per day at home. Samples
worth \$5 free. Address
STINSON & CO., Portland, Maine.