

rate, smashing the shafts of the vehicle, tearing the harness, and nearly killing the driver. Not content with this practical joke, they next completely soaked the man, a piece of wanton sport not much to be relished in the month of February. It is to be hoped that the driver will recover damages from the city for the loss sustained and the unjustifiable soaking he received. Besides, I cannot see the utility of the firemen emptying the tanks for sport when the city is taxed to keep them full for cases of emergency. Is there not water enough in the Bay for practice? A.

For Branigan's Chronicles.

MECHANICS' INSTITUTE.

Mr. BRANIGAN.—A circumstance came to my knowledge the other day which I would feel much obliged to you by explaining. I am a subscriber to the Mechanics' Institute, and frequent the Reading Room, and confess to being astonished at seeing only one Irish newspaper in the whole collection. I think there are six or seven Scotch, five or six English, and thirty or forty Canadian and American newspapers, and but a solitary whig Irish one. Can there be such a thing as National prejudice in the management?

AN IRISHMAN.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

INGOMAR.—It is not the intention of our little sheet to publish disagreements between master and man. We have no doubt but that the circumstances related in your letter are quite correct, and that W. F.— is all you represent him to be. An appeal to the law is the best redress.

WHO MADE YOU?—The interpretation this writer puts upon a grave and delicate question is inadmissible.

TOM.—We do not desire to interfere with persons keeping small beer houses, without an aggravated cause.

JERRY.—Your acquaintance with Tom Hound is too familiar. If you know when you are well off, you had better take the advice of keeping clear of him in future.

OUR LETTER-BOX.—All letters and communications intended for the editor or for publication, should be addressed Box No. 120, Hamilton P. O.

BRANIGAN'S
Chronicles and Curiosities.

"Nothing extenuate, nor set down aught in malice."
—SHAKESPEARE.

HAMILTON, SATURDAY, MARCH 5, 1853.

THE PRICE OF BREAD.

Latterly we have received a number of letters, wishing to be informed whether or not the 4-lb. loaf should be held at the figure charged by the bakers. Certainly, if we take the market quotations as expressed in the city-dailies—and we have no reason to doubt their accuracy—the complaints made are not without foundation, and the matter should be taken up in quarters exercising more influence than it is in our power to bring upon the subject. In the first place, why the public should be charged upwards of \$3 a barrel for flour, when the wheat composing that much flour only amounts to a trifle over \$6, should be considered. Next, how in happens that the bakers, who only use flour that costs them from \$5½ to \$5¾, should sell it in its manufactured state of bread at 8½d for 4 lb., should likewise be looked into. The flour dealer and baker are evidently playing into one another's hands, and the public accordingly are shamefully im-

posed upon. These tradesmen must be well aware that their charges are extortionate, their profits astounding, and the only persons in the community who are getting FAT or rich at the expense of the public at large. The blazoning forth in the newspapers of donations of scores of loaves of bread and barrels of flour, to the poor, may appear very sympathetic to the uninitiated, they, gullible mortals, never dreaming that the baker, with his enormous profits, considers the charity he dispenses as a very small matter, since the public are really the victims. Their great end in this move is to gain popularity; and if they can increase their custom by such means, besides earning a name for philanthropy, they imagine they can go through the world swimmingly. But, to the point. It is to be borne in mind, that no branded flour is offered for sale in our market, and the article called *double extra*, (used principally for exportation) for which we really more than pay, seldom or never enters the baker's threshold. The material of which our bread is made is plain superfine, or the cheapest brand; and taking that staple at the present quotation, (6s. 10d. per bushel) would make the cost of a barrel of flour something like 30s. This, converted into bread, produces 68 4-lb. loaves, which, at 8d., the price charged, amounts to £2 5s. 4d., leaving a nice little margin, (exclusive of incidentals) of 15s. 4d. per barrel. A person making up from 15 to 20 barrels of flour per day into bread can thus make a very handsome thing of it, and can likewise afford to be generous and charitable. The flour-dealer, in a like way, imposes upon his customers. He seldom, if ever, purchases the superior brands, and it may be for the simple reason that he has not the opportunity, since, as we have said above, the choice brands are manufactured for export; but, the consumer has to pay for it, nevertheless, which would be considered hard in the best of times, and how much more so in these pinching days.

We shall take the opportunity next week of going more into detail with the baker and his handicraft, and further set forth his ways and means of being able, after some four or five years at the trade, of managing to build brick and stone houses out of his profits, or, more correctly speaking, the pockets of his customers.

WHITE, et al. v. ROACH.

On Monday last, at noon, Judge Logie delivered his verdict in the above case, completely substantiating our formerly expressed opinions in the matter. As soon as the decision was given, we issued a slip announcing the important fact; and as many of our readers may not have seen the same, we here re-print it for their gratification:—

We hasten to lay before our readers the result of the important election suit against Alderman Roach, which terminated, as we twice predicted it would, in the disappointed trio, and the mainte-

nance of his seat at the Council Board by the worthy Alderman aforesaid. Mr. Thomas White and his co-adjutors, notwithstanding their vigorous efforts, and though they had chosen the best BARR they could find in the city, were quite unable to pry Mr. Roach out of his seat.

The Aldermanic representative of St. Mary's Ward is too firmly planted to be moved by such implements, and next time Mr. White desires to distinguish himself we hope he will hunt up a better case. Mr. Chas. Sadleir the legal adviser of the defendant, ably managed the case in the interest of his client, and his Honor, Judge Logie, at the hour of 12 o'clock noon, gave his decision as became him, resulting as above stated.

We congratulate our friends in St. Mary's Ward on the result, and hope that it may serve in future to deter tricksters from availing themselves of the quibbles of law, to work injury to the City, and discredit to one of its most worthy representatives. Let Mr. White come out boldly, and solicit the votes of the Electors in January next, if he is desirous of getting into the Council, and if the Electors want his services, they will doubtless let him know.

RAT KILLING FOR SPORT.

The ratting sports came off at Jim Brown's on Saturday evening last, as duly announced. The audience was a very numerous one, and in no danger this time from a cave in, as the sport took place on *terra firma*. There were 150 fine fat animals sacrificed, and the palm for such martyrdom, was awarded to a small black and tan terrier, named "Fanny," and the badge of honor a neatly executed silver collar.

As the price of sausage meat has been on the advance lately, it is fully expected, since the termination of this *battue*, that the cost of this article of consumption, as well as the merchantable one of fur, will be considerably reduced. Indeed it is said that contracts have been entered into, by a few houses in both trades, to secure a regular stated supply.

W. S. O'BRIEN.

This modest unassuming patriot has arrived in New York, and met with, as a matter to be understood, a cordial welcome from his countrymen. He says he will visit Canada, when he gets time, for which condescension on his part we shall all fall down on our knees and thank him, when the proper time arrives. Our friend D'Arey has already taken the initiative, as will be seen from the subjoined letter, in trying to gain Mr. O'Brien over to the Grit camp, with the ultimate object of assuming the leadership of that party. Not a bad idea, old rebel; but don't you wish you may get him?

TORONTO, March 1st, 1853.

DEAR WILLIAM,—I was so delighted this morning when we received your telegram, that we actually could not finish a gin cocktail a piece. So soon as you have finished the work of your mission among the New York Phoenix Club boys, we will expect to see you in Toronto. George Brown says that