Huron Signal.

GODERICH, C. W., MAY 18, 1865.

We believe the article on the labor and money question, published elsewhere, will be popular, because, unfortunately, as our correspondent intimates, three out of every four readers of the *Signal* have a *feeling* interest in the subject. The remark, also, that a wholesale exodus has set in from Canada to the States is too sadly true. *Hundreds* of fine, promising young men have already forsaken Huron and Bruce this Spring. The coasting steamers have conveyed fifty or sixty of them to Port Huron on each trip—the propellor *Niagara* on her first trip to Chicago took over about fifty and *scores* more, to our own personal knowledge, have determined upon starting just as soon as they can muster up enough to pay their passage. And yet, in the face of the most positive evidence of the abject prostration of the country, the *Signal* is severely censured by some because in the discharge of a most important duty it proclaims the fact and endeavors to search out the causes leading to this sad state of affairs—Nay, we have been most unjustly accused of holding Annexation views because we have not chosen to call a *spade* a useful implement for disintegrating the particles of soil so that they may be exposed to solar and atmospheric influences, &c., &c. We have never advised a soul to leave us, but have rather deplored the stern necessities that compel men to forsake the institutions of their forefathers to seek bread for themselves and their little ones under the stars and stripes. We have just as much faith in Canadian resources as our Howick friend. In spite of frosts we can raise on the quarter-acre of British American soil that we own better plums, apples, small fruits, and vegetables than most of the Americans on *their* patches; and our farmers can produce wheat that stands A. 1 in the world's market, *as well as* the very best of cordwood. But *there is something wrong somewhere*, else, with our fine agricultural resources, we should not be steeped to the lips in pecuniary embarrassment and misery as we are at this moment, and we hold that it is the bounden duty of every lover of the country and its institutions to enquire into and remove, if possible, the source of all this trouble and danger.

We do not wish it to be understood that we are entering upon a wholesale indiscriminate campaign against the leaders of money. Many of these men live amongst us and knowing the condition of the people refrain from either exacting a cent beyond their ten or twelve per cent or distressing their mortgagors when they can with any degree of safety do so. The sorest pressure is felt by those who borrow money sent from Britain, as it would be sent to India, to bring a good, stiff per centage and thus enable the possessors to parade the streets and parks of the old land in a style that could not be afforded on the modest three per cent. which their surplus funds would command at home. To constitute an element of wealth, money must *remain* in the country, and it is equally as true that no man can *borrow* himself out of debt. Large sums of money have came into this country, but they have gone to pay for *dead horses*. The necessities of the people have compelled them to borrow largely, and if we measure those necessities by the high rates of interest, we can well understand that our financial disease is a most aggravated one. If the money lent out could remain in the country to develop its resources the case would not appear so bad, but it does no so remain; it flows out again in a torrent that only exhausts itself when the last dollar is spent, leaving behind the 12 or 15 per cent. of interest, as the case may be, and it is one of the primary axioms of political economy that *no country can prosper whose necessities demand the payment of more than four per cent. of interest.* We have no wish to appear unjust in the eyes of any one class, and we know that a variety of causes have led to our monetary difficulties, but we do wish to impress the lessons of the times on those who may be in a position now or hereafter to profit by them. In the meantime, we shall throw our columns open to any gentleman who may think that we have gone astray in our treatment of this important subject.

THE SAFETY-VALVE OPEN.

It has been feared by many that at the close of the American Civil War it would be impossible to bring the vast armies of the United States to disband and return all at once to the avocations of peace. The taste of blood and the license of warfare exercise such a fascinating influence over the unthinking multitude that, having been indulged in for any considerable period, all other pursuits become tame and insufferably insipid. Hence, political theorists argue that a foreign war can alone open a safety valve for the escape of the passions engendered by civil strife. This has been considered the great danger of Canada. It was feared, and very justly, that even supposing the American Government to be tired of war and its enormous burthens, danger might be apprehended from bands of lawless fillibusters. The various International disputes that have arisen during the war between this country and the United States, have drawn down upon us the denunciations of such demagogues as Bennett of the *Herald*, and we all know that in cases of fillibustering, a very slight pretext is all that is necessary to encourage the mob to acts of violence. The war is over, to all intents and purposes, and Canada may derive comfort from the fact that the Americans do not manifest any desire to swallow her up. They profess to think that the land of "Blue-Noses" is not worth the trouble and expense of conquering. This sudden magnanimity may, however, be owing to the fact that the safety-valve has been opened in another direction. Mexico—the "land of rich fields and luscious fruits"—is engaging the attention of the turbulent spirits.—Notwithstanding the *recognized* establishment of Maximilian on the throne of that country, a remnant of the adherents of the old republic still holds out, and to aid these men and pave the way for the future Annexation of Mexico to the Union, a movement is afoot in the States. In almost every city, agents of Juarez are at work, and every inducement is held out to the veterans who will, under one pretext or another, seek their fortunes in that quarter. The movement is going on under the slight cover of *emigration*, but it is easy to see that the only object the armed emigrants can have is to join the republican army against the forces of Maximilian. Indeed, within the past few days, the American press has become so outspoken that it requires the announcement that "the neutrality laws will be put forth against all who attempt to compromise the Government upon the Mexican question" to disabuse our minds of the idea that open war is about to be declared against the new Emperor. The New York *Herald* says:—"The Mexican "emigration excitement increases. The "office for enrollment is unable to accomo-"date the applicants and two more offices "are to be opened. There is a great rush "of discharged army officers and soldiers. "The Mexican General Ortegas, is highly "delighted with the prospects. It is said "the West has subscribed large sums of "money to the enterprise, and that 25,-"000 men are to be raised there, to be "commanded by Gen. Rosecrans." This movement may lead to most important results. If the American Government permits it to go on so that a large force of armed men are engaged against the recognized government of Mexico, it will be absurd to plead neutrality, and while other powers in Europe will probably protest against the proceeding, we think the Emperor of France will feel himself bound in honor to defend Maximilian at all hazards, and to call the Government of the United States to account for winking at such a breach of International law. The plot is thickening beyond question, and we shall watch future developments with intense interest.

"National crimes are purged by national humiliations, and if the signs of the times pretend not visibly such a judgement in this case, then are the usual warnings worth naught. There is a low, moaning sound which precedes the mighty tornado, and the unquiet waters of the sea seethe and hiss and swell before the hurricane bursts forth in its fury, and even so *now*. There is a lull and a quiet; but it is the sleep of the Berserkar, the old Norse Champion, who slept tranquilly and arose in his might to carry the sword and the wildest devastation throughout the doomed land."

So saith the rhetorician of the *Irish Canadian*. Amongst the "national crimes" to be "hurricaned" in this seething fashion, are the potato rot, the failure of the oat crop, and the other causes of want and privation in Ireland, all of which, by an extremely hot house sort of logic, are attributed to that wicked institution, the British Government. When the storm bursts we may expect, judging from his bloody preachings, that the "Big Injun" of the *Canadian* will soon have the stack-pole of his literary wigwam ornamented with the reeking scalps of slain Saxons. It is comfortable for an editor to have a hobby, but he should be brought up for "cruelty to animals" if he is guilty of riding it to death.

Capture of Jefferson Davis.

The telegraph brings us the anticipated intelligence that Jeff. Davis, his family and staff were captured at Irwinsville, Georgia, on the 10th inst. Sorry as we are that the ex-president of the Southern Confederacy has fallen into the hands of the Federals, we have had but little hope of his escape, and now that he is a prisoner, we hope, for the sake of humanity that the Executive will not abuse its power and bring down upon itself the merited execration of Christendom. That is, of course, premising that Mr. Davis is entirely innocent of the crime of assassination, which we hope and trust will prove to be the case. There are but few Burke's in the North capable of impeaching this great man at the bar of the Nation and of the World.

"Why They don't Fail."

The Montreal *Trade Review* in an able editorial article accounts for the fact that there have been fewer failures this spring in the United States, where prices have "tumbled down" at least fifty per cent. since March, than in Canada, where no such change has taken place, as follows:—

"A merchant cannot fail unless he owes something. Whatever his losses may be, if he has no debts to pay, the world outside is not affected; the loss is confined to himself, and no one else suffers. In New York, and throughout the United States, a very great change has taken place in business. The long-credit system has been almost universally dispensed with, and, except an occasional transaction on thirty days' paper, the vast bulk of business transactions for the past three years has been on a cash basis. A variety of causes has produced this result, which we have only space to enumerate: such as the constant fluctuations currency, so that a merchat dealing in goods on credit, not only speculated in the article itself,—subject to the laws of its supply and demand,—but also speculated in currency; for if he either bought or sold on credit, his payments or receipts at a future time could never be defined. He might just as well speculate in gold at once. He therefore was wise in paying for his goods as he bought them, and getting paid for them as he sold them. This great change in the trade could never have taken place but for the enormous increase of the currency, the plenitude of which was another reason for cash transactions."

The line of reasoning abopted by our contemporary will recommend itself to the common-sense of every shrewd man of business. Before Canada can rid herself of the incubus of bankruptcies under which she groans, a death blow must be given to the credit system. Want of money must be made up by increased frugality and economy.

Whither are we Drifting?

THE HARD TIMES AND SCARCITY OF LABOR IN CANADA, AND THE CAUSE—IMPORTANT FOR MORTGAGERS AND MONEY-LENDERS—A DAY OF RECKONING CLOSE AT HAND FOR THE LATTER AND SOME HOPE FOR THE FORMER—THE DUTY OF THE PEOPLE TO SUPPORT THE COUNTY PAPER—THE 'SIGNAL,' &c., &c.

BLYTHE, May 12th, 1865.

To the Editor of the HURON SIGNAL:

Some time ago I have read two admirable articles in the *Signal* on the scarcity of money and the hard times, and in the *Signal* of the 5th inst. I have read with deep interest an article on "Labor."—These three articles have the same tendency, and the *Huron Signal* deserves general credit for being the first paper in Canada to point public attention prominently to the evils which threaten us, and under which we are suffering and likely still to suffer more. When evils threaten it is better to look them squarely and fairly in the face, and, if possible, devise some means to avert them, than to close our eyes until they come upon us and crush us down. Undoubtedly "Canada is now laboring under a cloud" heavier and denser than any that passed over it since the Rebellion of '37 and '38; and how it will emerge from this cloud is a problem which time alone can solve. The articles in the *Signal* are well calculated to draw public attention to our situation, and some person, perhaps, may be able to show us the bright side of our position so as to re-engender public confidence and hope, and to induce people to stick to the Canadian ship until better times occur. At present the times are hard—money is scarce, and labor not to be had. From those new townships, and, I believe, from every part of Canada, there is now, as you describe in the *Signal*, a continued stream of emigration to the United States. Either this must be put a stop to in some way or Canada must suffer. Canada is in no way behind the generality of the States either in position, climate or resources. How, then, is it that the States progress while Canada retrogrades? How, then, is it that there is plenty of remunerative employment for all in the States while there is none in Canada? The cause is that the vast resources of Canada are not developed as those of the States are. The cause is that there are more men of public spirit there than here. The unparalleled resources of Canada are allowed to lie dormant while the resources of the States are turned to good account. While our politicians are dreaming and planning and wrangling about new constitutions they are neglecting the internal improvements of the country—grasping at the shadow and throwing away the substance. We have too many theories, and too much politics in Canada for the good of the country. We have the finest water privileges in the world; in most cases these waters are allowed to flow uselessly into the lakes. Our fertile virgin soil likewise is comparatively neglected for want of means to cultivate it as it should be.—Millions of dollars could be profitably employed in agricultural improvements in Huron. How much splendid land now lies waste in Huron alone for want of means to drain. The Crown sold their lands too high in the first place. As for those of the Canada Company, they are out of the question. All those things combine to keep "Canada under a cloud." But there is another evil at which you hint that is doing more to keep this splendid country under a cloud than anything else. It is that we have too many non-producers—too many lazy drones, who think it, as they did in the old country, a degradation to do physical labor. Some of these drones are unfortunately in a position to turn usurers. They take advantage of the dire necessities of the people. They advertise to lend money from 8 to 12 per cent. People in difficulties are forced to take the bait, and in an evil hour they mortgage their farm and borrow the money, but instead of 10 or 12 they often find that all told they have to pay nearly 20 per cent. This class of blood-suckers, and their name is Legion in Canada, are getting rich by the sweat and toil of the hard-working farmer. At his expense they are able to build fashionable brick houses in Toronto and to fare sumptuously every day in purple and fine linen, while their victims are writhing in agonies and stinting themselves and their families to try to meet the heavy half yearly payments of interest. But how can a farmer work while he feels the finger of one of these blood suckers, as it were, on his throat? His energies must, in a measure, be paralyzed. And then conceive the fearful state the country must be in when I tell you, and I do not overstate the fact, that three out of every four farmers in these new townships are mortgaged, and thus in the power of those money vampires. They shall have their day, but depend upon it, a day of bitter reckoning for them is close at hand. How will they get back their money? The borrower has not it and can never pay it. Then foreclose the Mortgages—eject the Mortgagers. How can they eject three fourths of a township?—nay, perhaps, of a county? I wonder the insurers did not think of this before they lent so extensively. The thing of ejecting could not be tolerated. The Government could not permit it. In the United States the Government had to step in to protect the anti renters in Van Ransaleer County, in the State of New York, and elsewhere. Here in Canada, also, did not our own government come to the relief of the consitaires? Are not the people of Upper Canada at this moment, and shall they not as long as they live, be paying the seignors for giving the land free of rent to the consitaires? Are the people of Upper Canada of less consideration in the eyes of our Government than the people of Lower Canada? I should hope not. But apart from the government, I think the Court of Chancery, which is one of the best Courts in the Province, will afford relief to the mortgagers. I do not think the Court of Chancery will allow the usurers to charge such exorbitant rates of interest as they do and such outrageous "commissions" and legal expenses as they or their jackals exact. I shall here give you a Bill of the expenses that a neighbour of mine had lately to one of your Goderich lawyers for effecting a loan for him on mortgage of about $700 at 12 per cent. interest, payable half yearly in advance:

Bank Exchange	$1 62
do	25
Commission	25 00
Legal Expenses	10 00
Expenses of W——,	7 00
My own expenses, Registry Office, &c.,	17 50
	$61 37

Will any Court of Equity allow such a Bill as this? Emphatically I think not. There is no equity in such a charge. I can give names if desired. I think the Court of Chancery will decide that the excess of interest and the gross charge of expenses shall be taken as so much of the principal sum, and I have high legal authority for saying so. The usurers themselves are beginning to fear something of this kind. At first they lent on mortgage in the usual way, stipulating for the payment of the principal in a given time, and of the interest, whatever it might be, at stated periods. But they do not do business in this old fashioned way now. Now when they lend they take an absolute deed of the borrowers farm, giving him a bond to resell to him on payment of a certain fixed price, being the amount borrowed, and in the mean time they leave the borrower his farm at so much a year rent, being in lieu of interest. This, certainly, is the more artistic and refined way of doing the thing, but I doubt if Equity will allow itself to be blindfolded by such a shuffle. In another way still the mortgagees will be apt to suffer. Some farms that I could name are mortgaged for more than their value, and the mortgagees will either have to take them or get nothing, so that in different senses the usurer cannot be considered on a bed of roses. He can hardly escape loss for his cupidity, and few will pity him. He might have invested his money in more honorable ways, and thereby benefit not only himself but the country at large. If monied men pursued the latter course, our young men would not require to leave us now to seek employment elsewhere.

I have great faith in Canada. It may be under a cloud just now, but the cloud will soon pass away and we shall again enjoy the sunshine of prosperity. Land is now cheap, but I think it will not be long so. We in Huron have soil and advantages that cannot be surpassed in Canada; and if we are only true to ourselves and can tide over our present difficulties, this part of the country might be made the garden of Canada West and equal to any part of the States.

In justice to myself I may say that I have no personal interest in anything I have said about mortgages. My farm is not mortgaged and I never borrowed a cent on mortgage in my life. I merely write what I conceive to be for the public good. I do not desire that the mortgagees should lose by what is already done; but I want that the bad business should be stopped, for mortgaging is driving the country to utter ruin. I know also that it is all contending for people who will not raise a hand to aid themselves, and who will prefer any day to borrow and spend rather than to work. For instance, many of our people prefer spending money on whiskey and tobacco than to subscribe to a useful paper like the *Signal* that would always stand up for justice and fair play when needed. Let them take a hint and support the press. If not, I, for one, will wash my hands of them. I have often shown that it is the duty and the interest of the people of Huron to support their own County paper, the *Signal*. I expect that this letter will cause a large addition to your circulation. If the people show a disposition to act manfully and help themselves, I, in my humble way, shall help them to the, although the task is not an easy one to come in from the plough and write for the press until the rain is over. Yours, &c.,

H.

What they say in England.

We give here some remarks from the Liverpool Mercury on the question of the defence of this country. The Mercury represents the feeling of the extreme liberal party, and is an influential journal:—We take it to be tolerably plain that this question will not be allowed to remain where it is. If the Canadians do not think their country worth defending at their own expense, they cannot be too soon disabused of the delusion that the English people are going to defend it for them. It is only in the capacity of an ally that England can accept any responsibility for the protection of a community which disclaims the authority of the English legislature, and which pays not a farthing to the Exchequer; and alliance implies reciprocal obligations, accurately defined by compact between the allied Powers. The soil of Canada is not owned the revenues of Canada is not ours; and it is an outrage on common sense that we should be expected to defend Canada as we would defend Cornwall or the Isle of Wight, where every acre, every man, and every shilling of property are at the uncontrolled disposal of our own Parliament. But it is said that Canada is responsible to foreign powers for the policy and the acts of the British government, it is only necessary to reply that that responsibility is the condition on which Canada retains the assistance of the British government, and that, if it be an unacceptable condition, Canada would find little difficulty in releasing herself from it at the simple cost of renouncing the British alliance. It may be added by the way, that, as the affair of the Vermont raiders suggests, the responsibility is mutual, and the British government may possibly become answerable to foreign powers for the acts or defaults of Canadian authorities. It would be a curious element of the familiar fallacy that Canadian exposure to invasion exclusively arises from her British connection, if England were dragged into a quarrel with the United States in consequence of the insolence of the Canadian police and the partisan violences of Canadian judges. Anyhow, if the Parliament and people of Canada think they lose more than they gain by having England for an ally on condition of taking the consequences of the foreign policy of England, it is very desirable, both for their own sake and ours, that they should say so. Nothing but present irritation and future disaster can come of a state of things in which each party throws on the other burdens and liabities which they cannot agree on dividing. There is no more urgent duty at this moment resting on the Imperial government and Parliament than to make the Canadians distinctly understand that England recognizes only a limited and conditional responsibility for the defence of a self-governed community which is quite rich enough to have an army and fortifications of its own.

A Guarantee Against War.

The Montreal *Witness* contains the following article, which, it says, was furnished by one of the most experienced statesmen of Canada West:—

We hear nothing from the English papers now but war—the imminence of war—war before our *defences* can be ready, whilst we, here on the spot, knowing both Canada and the United States well have very little anxiety on the subject, and believe, with Judge Drummond, that the best armament for Canada is no armament at all, and that the millions spent on volunteers—the millions to be spent, and the whole farago about defences is a hallucination; the money had better be employed in deepening our canals, and constructing new railroads. The Americans have had war enough, they know it is a costly thing, and that time is now necessary to recuperate their own finances, and that the trade of Canada, the pine of Canada, the ingenuities, labor, and the minerals of Canada, are necessary to be got in exchange for the cotton of the States, and the notions of all kinds that find so ready a market from Halifax to Fort William; and we all know that if England's millions, and Canada's millions were laid out in defences, and 50,000 troops came out, and 50,000 Canadians volunteered and fought over the fair fields of Canada West, till every county was reeking with blood, every home stead razed, and even fences and boundaries gone forever as in Virginia, and though glory followed British courage, and the enemy was driven off, and the people safe in Point Henry or Quebec, the thing would be only the game of a season, and another spring would enable the thirty millions in the United States to send new armies, make new devastations, and remoisten the soil with the blood of 10,000 or 20,000 of our youth—that year after year till English treasure and Canadian blood became too scarce to continue the madness would such a war last. It is the most perfect madness to think of it. If England really wants to be quit of us, let us form a confederation and become an independent country—"British America" or "Canada"—have a treaty of peace and free trade with England, France and the United States, and be the first people on earth that made such an arrangement, and coupled with a bond of peace that, in case of misunderstanding or difficulty about rights, such difficulty should be settled by a reference; if the difficulty were with England, to the Governments of France and the United States; if with the United States, to the Governments of France and England, whose decision should be final and binding on each. This is an idea the Emperor has embraced, and would be glad to second. Thus a new thing would be under the sun.

A full, free, unconditional reciprocity with the three greatest nations on earth guarantees against oppression or wrong in the *bond of* submission, and the beacon of eternal peace and free trade held out to all the world.

Such a nation would be the envy of all nations, and unto it would the best of all countries run, and would ensure a course of prosperity such as no other nation ever enjoyed. Bring this view before the people.—Employ your mind and your pen in extending, developing, explaining, and bringing public opinion up to this question, and you will have done a greater service to Canada, more for the promotion of human freedom and universal peace, than any man has done in the present generation. You have had the sense already to point this out. Believe me, it is deeply impressed on the minds of thousands, and if a grand independent convention of the people were called, and the delegates named to go to England and Washington, the men who prorogued Parliament to go to England on Confederation, Reciprocity, and the Defences, that they might gain longer life, have a trip to England at the people's expense, and stave off the coming exposure of the most miserable series of the financial blunders, would find themselves just where they are now here.

The Road Hill Murder.

FIVE YEARS' SECRECY.

VOLUNTARY CONFESSION AND SURRENDER OF CONSTANCE KENT.

The circumstances of this mysterious murder have never been forgotten,—now, nearly five years ago, the body of a male child, which had been missed from its cot, was found in a privy outside the house, and how, suspicion having been directed towards Miss Kent, the eldest daughter of Mr. Kent by a former wife, she was examined before the local magistrates, at the instigation of Inspectors Whicher and Williamson, of the London Detective Police, and acquitted of the charge. It is hardly a secret that nearly a year afterwards, in consequence of an alleged confession of the crime by Miss Kent to one of her relatives, another attempt to investigate the matter was made by the detective officers, who had incurred the censure of a large proportion of the press and the public for their proceedings in the case. They found it unadvisable, however, to act upon the fresh information which had reached them, and it subsequently transpired that Miss Kent had been sent to a convent in France. Nothing more of a tangible character was heard of the case until Tuesday, April 25th, when the startling information was conveyed to the chief magistrate that Miss Kent was in custody upon her own confession upon the terrible charge, having been accompanied to London by the Rev. Mr. Wagner, of St. Paul's, Brighton, to whom she had revealed her guilt.

The Times says:—Although the circumstances were so long discussed and were examined with such minuteness at the time, yet as five years have elapsed, a short summary of them may be acceptable. At Road-house, in Wiltshire, lived Mr. Kent, an inspector of factories. He had been twice married. His family by the first wife consisted of three daughters and a son, the two older daughters being grown up young women, and the third—Constance—a girl of 16; the son, William was about 15. By the second wife he had three children; a daughter five years old, a son—Francis Saville Kent—nearly four years old, and another daughter still younger. On the night of the 29th of June, 1860, the inmates of the house were Mr. and Mrs. Kent, the seven children we have mentioned, and three servants—a cook, a housemaid, and Elizabeth Gough, the nurse. During that night the child was taken out of his cot, strangled, stabbed, his throat was cut, and his body wrapped in a blanket which had been drawn out from over him, was thrown down a privy belonging to the house. From that time until yesterday it has been a profound mystery who committed the deed. All the skill, perseverance, and acumen which justice could employ for the detection of the crime were baffled completely. So widely and every clue that might lead to the truth fail, that the public was reduced to feeding upon vague suspicions which it now seems were most unjust and cruel. But when the details of the matter are considered, we cannot wonder either that the popular excitement in the neighbourhood should have reached almost to frenzy, or that both the unhappy father and the nurse should have been the objects of undeserved indignation. It was impossible to believe but that the murder was committed by some one in the house. Evidence was, indeed, given respecting the opening of a drawing-room window, but what possible inducement could there be for a stranger to pelter into a dwelling house merely for the sake of destroying an unoffending infant? Of these twelve persons, then, who were in the house, which was the murderer? The disposition of the bed rooms was as follows: on the first floor slept Mr. and Mrs. Kent, with the eldest of the infant children; in an adjoining room, the nurse, Elizabeth Gough, with Francis and the other child, Francis being in a cot by himself; on the second floor, the two grown up daughters slept together, Constance in a room by herself. William in a room by himself, and the cook and housemaid together in another room. The nurse, then, was in the closest relation with the murdered child during the night; but it was possible that any other member of the family might have entered the room and made away with him while she slept. Early in the morning the nurse, according to her own statement, missed the child, but thought that his mother might have come in and taken him away to her own room, especially as he had been unwell and had taken some medicine the night before. About half past seven o'clock she knocked at her mistress's door and inquired about the child, and when it appeared that he was not there the alarm was given and search was made. As the child was not to be found in the house or the shrubbery, Mr. Kent drove over to Trowbridge to give notice to the police, ordering the servants to continue their search. While he was gone, some people from the village came in to help in the search, and the end of it was that the child's body, with its nightgown on and wrapped in a blanket, was found in the soil of the privy. There were, according to the subsequent evidence, marks of strangulation; there was a stab in the side, a wound in the breast, and the throat was cut from ear to ear. A piece of paper, bloody as if a knife had been wiped upon it, was found, but no knife or other weapon.

Suspicion at first fell on the young lady who has now confessed. The circumstances that the child had been taken up, wrapped in the blanket which was between the quilt and the sheet, and that the clothes were afterwards arranged, seemed to indicate that a woman's hand had been concerned in the work. The nurse gave her evidence with calmness and apparent truth, describing how she had placed the child's bedclothes the night before, giving her reason for not alarming the household when she first missed him, and declaring that she had heard and seen nothing from the time of going to bed till about 5 o'clock in the morning, when she awoke and found the cot empty. From the appearance of the body, it was probable that the child had been killed about 3 o'clock in the morning. The evidence of the other members of the family was entirely negative. They had heard and seen nothing, and were unable to give any clue to the mystery. As there was an outcry against Constance and William mainly on account of some supposed dislike of these young people to their infant half-brother, the investigation of the detective Whicher were mainly directed against them. William was soon absolved, but Whicher thought that he had discovered an important piece of evidence against Constance. The laundress asserted that one of this young lady's nightdresses was missing; that a day or two after the murder she had received it with the rest of the linen for the wash; that she had put it into the basket, that Constance had sent her out of the way for a moment, and that when she got home with the basket the nightdress was missing. This story was in itself a lame one, for the laundress said she remembered seeing the garment, and that there was nothing unusual about it—a circumstance which, if true, would take away from Constance any motive for concealing it, since the only reason for concealment would be that it was stained with blood. But on this statement Inspector Whicher applied for a warrant to apprehend Constance, and publicly charge her with the murder.

The following is the confession:—

"I, Constance Emilie Kent, alone, and unaided, on the night of the 29th of June, 1860, murdered at Road-hill-house, Wiltshire, one Francis Saville Kent. Before the deed was done no one knew of my intention, nor afterwards of my guilt. No one assisted me in the crime, nor in the evasion of discovery."

United States.

Capture of Jeff. Davis.

His Whole Staff Secured.

Washington, May 12.—Gen. Sherman refused to see Gen Halleck when he called on him, though the latter called to explain and apologize for the language he had used in his despatches to Mr. Stanton.

Gen Sherman has heretofore been about the oldest friend and defender Halleck had among the officers of the army.

Gen Grant said to-day he was in daily expectation of hearing of the surrender of K. Smith.

He has been officially notified that Smith was negotiating with our forces with a view to surrender.

Gen Grant telegraphs that he will remain with his troops and march with them to Alexandria.

Gold 130¼. Exchange 109¾.

Washington, May 13.—The Chronicle of this morning, speaking of the Court engaged in the trial of the assassination conspirators, says:—

The only step which has been taken not in accordance with ordinary trials is, that thus far the Court has sat with closed doors.—How long it may be necessary to maintain this precaution cannot now be decided. As it was adopted to ascertain the truth and the truth alone, it will not be abandoned if the complaints of the New York press are swollen into a torrent of denunciation. Yesterday the evidence was of so much importance as to convincingly establish the propriety of this alternative. The lives of the witnesses depend upon this regulation, and we feel free to say that none were more conscious of its necessity than the witnesses themselves, most of whom are honourable, intelligence and patriotic citizens.

WAR DEPARTMENT,
WASHINGTON, May 13.

To Major General Dix:—

The following despatch, just received from Gen. Wilson, announces the surprise and capture of Jefferson Davis and his staff by Col. E. Pritchard and the Michigan cavalry, on the morning of the 10th instant, at Irwinsville, in Irwin county, Ga.

(Signed,) EDWIN M. STANTON,
Secretary of War.

MACON, GA., A. M.,
May 12.

To Lieut. Gen. U. S. Grant and Hon Secretary of War, Washington.

I have the honour to report that at daylight of the 10th instant, Col. Pritchard, commanding the 4th Michigan cavalry, captured Jeff. Davis and family, with Regan, Postmaster General; Col. Harrison, Private Secretary; Colonel Johnson, Aide-de-camp; Cpl. Morris, Col. Tubbick, Lieut. H thaway, and others. Col. Pritchard surprised their camp at Irwinsville, in Irwin County, Georgia, 70 miles southeast of this place. They will be here tomorrow night, and will be forwarded under a strong guard without delay.

I will send in their particulars at once.

(Signed,) J. H. WILSON,
Brevet Major Gen.

NEW ORLEANS, May 3.—The rebel ram *Cincinnati* conveyed four steamers from Selma to Mobile, having 25,000 bales of cotton on board, part of it marked "C. S. A."

Considerable cotton remained at the river landing, but immense quantities were taken into the interior after the fall of Mobile to prevent it being burnt by the rebel cavalry.

CHARLESTON, May 3.—Gov. Vance left here yesterday for his home in Lincolnton, having failed to obtain permission from Gen. Schofield to return to Raleigh to resume his functions as Governor of North Carolina.

Gov. Graham, Hon. John A. Gilmer and Hon. Bedford Brown waited on Gen. Schofield at this point, while here the other day, and asked permission to go to Washington, to see if they could not prevail on President Johnson to continue Gov. Vance and the present Legislature in power, and also to see if they could not secure gradual emancipation instead of immediate emancipation. This request was respectfully declined. If a new election is ordered, Gov. Vance's friends, who comprise the wealth and aristocracy of the State, say that they will run him against Mr. Holden on the gradual emancipation platform, and are confident of success.

NEW YORK, May 13.—The steamer *Liberty* brings Havana dates of the 8th instant, and Vera Cruz of the 2nd, which confirm the reported capture of Saltillo and Monterey by the Liberals.

It is reported that Juarez would establish his capital at Monterey.

Maximilian, on reaching Orizaba, heard of the fall of Richmond and the capitulation of Lee, where upon he hastened back to Mexico, and despatched his Chief of Cabinet, M. Eloin, to the United States, who arrived at Havana in time to take the *Corsica*. There are various reports as to his mission.

Don Jose Ramon Pacheco, ex-minister of State, died in Mexico on the 18th ult.

The English Railroad Comyany have sublet a portion of their road from Vera Cruz to Mexico to a French company, thus giving France another claim on Mexico combining English and French interests.

The Jacker fraud is accepted by Maximilian, and the five million dollars are to be paid in one million annual instalments.

The Prarists had entered Palizada, and seized all the war munitions held by the merchants.

The infamous Colonel Dupin is *en route* for the State of Tobasco with 200 of his villains. A naval expedition is also on the way. Several of Maximilian's governors have pronounced against him.

It is said that rebel deserters are joining Cortinas.

There was a large fire in Matamoras on the 5th

An order was issued by Secretary Stanton on Sunday to release all prisoners of war except officers above the rank of colonel, who before the capture of Richmond signified their desire to take the oath of allegiance to the United States and their unwillingness to be exchanged. In respect to all other prisoners of war further orders will be issued.

EMIGRATION FROM CANADA.—*La Minerve* is endeavoring to discourage the exodus of young French Canadians to the United States by pointing out that the disbanding of the armies will glut the labour market and bring down the rate of wages. From the paragraphs appearing in the different newspapers of Lower Canada it is made known that great numbers of stalwart young men are leaving the different parishes for the brickfields of Massachusetts and the lumbering shanties of the west.

Town & Counties

The Council on Friday evening, for want of a quorum, adjourned for one week.

A little girl in Hanover, Co. Bruce, died in consequence of eating half a dozen eggs on Easter Sunday.

The weather just now is truly magnificent, and under the influence of a hot sun Vegetation is making rapid progress.

MEXICO IN DANGER.—Some of our Goderich boys have taken service against Maximilian He mi ht as well abdicate at once.

Queen's Birth-day Celebration

A meeting presided over by the Mayor was held in the Town Hall on Saturday evening last, to consider the steps necessary to be taken for celebrating Her Majesty's Birthday in this town. After some discussion, the following committee was appointed to take up a subscription and make preliminary preparations for the demonstration, viz:—Messrs. A. M. Ross, Jas Watson (merchant), Hugh Johnstone, J. R. Dark, D. Cameron, W. M. Savage, and W. T. Cox.

The meeting adjourned until Thursday evening next, when the Committee will report and further arrangements be made.

The Committee are meeting with tolerable success, considering the hard times and the cold-water influence of those who are too practical to sanction the expenditure of a few dollars in such a way, and we have no doubt that the celebration will be the best we have had for some years. A number of visitors are expected from Saginaw, and, of course, large numbers of our country friends will be on hand to witness the sport.

The programme will be as follows, as nearly as the funds contributed will permit:—

1. The Independant order of Calithumpians (on their own hook), in the morning between eight and ten.
2. A Royal salute by the Volunteers at noon.
3. Boat racing.
4. Athletic sports, &c.
5. Torch-light procession, Fire works, &c., in the evening.

If this order can be carried out pretty closely, every body will have something to see or hear that will contribute to the pleasure of the day. We hope due provision will be made for maintaining good order.

A Queer Confidence Game!

On Friday last Goderich was favored with a visit by two gentlemen, a lady, and a little boy. One of the gents. professed to speak French, principally, the other was most at home in German, and the lady could talk well and pretty *fast* in either language.—Although the party bore a very respectable appearance, they let it out that they were somewhat hard up. They put up at Dark's Hotel, the Frenchman, as we will call him, registering his name illegibly and giving Louisville, Ky., as his point of departure.—They had come here from Owen Sound way. On Saturday morning steps were taken to raise the wind. The Frenchman went to Rev. Mr. Schneider and told his story: He was a political refugee, had a brother in Hamilton, and if he could get to that city all would be well and money plentiful,—would the Rev. Father lend him "zoost von leetle ten dollar." The benevolent heart of the priest opened and he *did* lend the poor fellow $10.00, taking his note for it. So far so good. Frenchy came back to the hotel, grinned, shrugged his shoulders, and told of his luck. Then the lady sallied forth. She went straight to the priest's house, proclaimed herself, no doubt a Catholic of saintly virtue, and said that her husband was in Quebec, that she was quite out of funds, and if the good father would lend her twelve dollars her earthly happiness would be complete. Mr. Schneider's benevolence began to shake a little—he thought it queer that two strangers should call on such an errand so soon after each other, and he plainly expressed his doubts. On this the woman declared by all the saints that she was telling the truth.—She had a few rings, etc., given by her dying mother, and these would be left behind as an earnest of her honesty. The good priest could stand it no longer. Unused to the wiles of a siren, he threw his suspicions off and handed over $12.00. Soon after her departure, however, he determined to make some enquiries, and on proceeding to Dark's Hotel, was informed that whether the lady's husband lived in Quebec or not, she had, on Friday night, roomed and slept with the Gentleman of the party. By this time the quartett had departed for the station. Chief constable Trainer, after consulting the Mayor, hurried to the Station, and arrived in time to be too late for the Frenchman who had gone on on the early train. The woman was there, and was persuaded, as constables generally persuade people, to march to the priest's residence. There she fell upon her knees, begged and prayed for pardon and mercy, and disgorged her ill-gotten booty. The reverend gentleman gave her a piece of his mind and told her to get away out of his sight, which she was only too glad to do. She then went to the Station and with the German, her bosom friend, started for Clinton, to try perhaps, the same dodge on some Methodist preacher. The woman before her departure professed a desire to slap the "d——d chopa" of some of the cab-drivers, and evinced a thorough acquaintance with the technical terms used only by females of extremely loose fitting virtue.

On Sunday, Mr. Trainer, armed with the proper authority, went down to Clinton and succeeded in bringing back with him the parties guilty of playing the game we have described above. The chief constable deserves much praise for the clever manner in which he managed the affair after it was put into his hands.

POLICE COURT.

THE DISORDERLIES.

On Wednesday morning last four girls, named respectively Esther Forsythe, Margaret Clark, Elizabeth Valentine and Isabella McDonald, were brought before the Mayor and S. Pollock and W. M. White, Esqs., on a compound charge of keeping a house of ill-fame and selling liquor without license. Forsyth admitted that she was guilty of keeping the house, and said the others were only inmates. It was therefore unnecessary to call witnesses to prove the fact, much to the satisfaction of a large number of young men who had been subpœnaed to attend, and some of whom, we hear, found it desirable to get up fishing excursions to Dungannon, Sharp's Creek, &c. The Court sentenced Forsyth to pay a fine of $50.00 and costs, and, through the mayor, informed her that it was only by an oversight that the inmates had not been included in the information. His Worship said the town authorities were determined to put down the horrible vice which these girls were spreading in the community, and they would be taken up again just as soon as evidence could be obtained against them. He also added that the intention was to proceed on the next occasion against the young men frequenting their haunt, so that all might be punished together.

Forsyth also acknowledged to the selling of liquor without license. The Court inflicted a fine for this offence of $20.00 and costs. The fines and costs amounted altogether to $91.40, and we think if our authorities will continue as they have begun they will soon rid the town of this tribe of brazen strumpets.

The Court was crowded during the trial, of course.

We may mention, in this connection, that "Alcoholic James" and his set have skedaddled to Saginaw.

The parties implicated in what we have elsewhere described as a confidence game were brought before Robert Gibbons and H. B. O'Connor, Esqs., yesterday (Monday) afternoon. The Rev Mr Schneider deposed as to the facts we have recorded, but as he received a note, however worthless, and jewelry, however trashy, for the moneys paid out to the parties, the court could not do other than dismiss the case. They were very glad to hand out the remaining $10.00 in order to get off. The accused were ably defended by Messrs. Cameron and Moore, and the County Attorney watched