

# The Huronian

DEVOTED TO COUNTY NEWS AND GENERAL INTELLIGENCE

GODERICH, ONT., FRIDAY, FEB. 10, 1883.

FORTY-FIRST YEAR / WHOLE NUMBER 3137

J. D. MCGILLICUDDY, PUBLISHER.  
\$1.50 A YEAR IN ADVANCE.

## WHAT'S UP?

### Things That Are Happening Around Us.

#### How the Valentine Business was Run in Wayback—The Various Kinds of Missives—Discussing the Question on its Merits—Specimen Letters.

Before the next fest of Tan Stival, Valentine's Day for the year of grace Eighteen Hundred and Eighty Eight will have gone to rest with its fathers, and ought to be left of it but the remembrance of the titled missives that spoke of love's young dream, or the hideous caricatures that stared out at us from the shop windows during the preceding week. And while I'm on this subject, who of us, looking back, does not sometimes feel the pangs of regret for the dead past. The years that have gone by had their pleasures as well as their pains, lights as well as shadows, enjoyments as well as setbacks, and hopes to counterbalance fears. In the long ago we took a heap of fun out of trivial things, for our wants were small, and our capacity for enjoyment large. Valentines, langyene, in the township of Wayback, were not of most artistic design, and sometimes the worst caricature made the best hit. We know what fun we had selecting, in the store at the four corners, the highly colored misrepresentation of the eadonator of the section, with bleared eyes, red face, bald head, nose-and-chin-almost-touching, with disavelled fringes of red hair, bushy eyebrows and a mouth like a deserted graveyard, and a neu half-a-dozen of us had each bought a copy of the self-same caricature, what delight we took in squandering our caddy money by sending the apparition to our instructor, through the medium of Her Majesty's mail. And, as regularly as the day came around, the time-honored custom was kept up, until the master moved out, and his place was taken by a mistress. There was no malice in the matter, but a sacrifice had to be made at the shrine of St. Valentine, and caricaturists always having made vile representations of schoolmasters, the boys, aye, and sometimes the girls, were willing to spend their coppers to show that there was one day in the year in which the pupil had his or her inaning, in so far as literature and "high art" were concerned. And when the mistress came, it didn't matter that she was a rosy-cheeked, sweet-voiced, quiet-looking and pleasant-faced young lady—though firm, vital—when the day of St. Valentine came around, the store counter was ransacked, and a representation of a red-faced, wild-eyed yvirog, with blue hair, green eyes, and a yellow dress with pink furberlows, with heavy masculine hands firmly grasping a blue-beech gad of extraordinary thickness and length, was selected to do her honor on the occasion. And once in a while one of the bigger boys would let up on the caricature business, get spouony on the pretty teacher, and would squander a month's savings in getting a higher-class valentine, with an imitation of lace bordering an Arcadian scene, where there was a pleasant glade, and a purling brook, and a tall oak, and loving kids in the distance, while a maiden fair and a swain held an afternoon session away from the busy haunts of men and gossiping women—or words to that effect. This emblem of fidelity and idleness was addressed to the lady education-moulder, in a hand which he ineffectually endeavored to disguise; and if the address didn't give him dead away, the writing and spelling of the doggerel inside were sure to, for it generally ran as follows:

## COMMUNICATIONS.

### Fair Play is a Jewel.

To the Editor of the Huronian.  
SIR,—I have recently been fined by Mayor Seager for contravening the billiard-room bylaw, and I think the public should know the circumstances, so that I will not stand in the light of a law-breaker before my fellow-electors. Last year an arrangement was made by Mayor Seager with Mr. Stubbs, whereby the latter was to pay the billiard license in monthly instalments. Mr. Stubbs, when he left Goderich, asked me to run the business until he came back, and I have continued to act as agent for Mr. Stubbs, fulfilling the conditions that had been made between him and the mayor. About a month or six weeks ago Constable Yule came to me and said that a complaint had been lodged against me for running the billiard-room without a license. I immediately went to the mayor, and he told me to pay the money (on the instalment plan agreed with Mr. Stubbs), into the hands of Mr. Campbell, Constable Yule afterwards told me to pay the money to treasurer Horton, and I deposited \$25 in that gentleman's hands. On January 24th I was cited before his worship for running tables without a license, and on Wednesday of last week I was fined \$50. Now, sir, I have lived in this town for a number of years, and think, even if I was the proprietor of the billiard room, which I do not admit, I should at least receive the treatment that was accorded to Mr. Stubbs; and I take this opportunity of placing myself right in the eyes of those of my fellow townsmen whose good opinion I esteem more than I do that of mayor Seager.

## TORONTO LETTER.

### The Agriculturist in Provincial Politics.

#### The New Minister—Mr. Eryel's Mishap—The New Society Paper—A Novel Chair in a Baptist Church—The "Telegram's" Vagaries—The Two Death Sentences.

From our own Correspondent. TORONTO, Feb. 8.  
The Local Legislature, now in session, has not yet got down to the work of big debate. Some of the quidnuncs say that there will be a lively discussion on the Inter-Provincial Conference resolutions, and I fancy there will be, too. The big fight will be upon the question of unrestricted trade with the United States, and the farmers' interests will be championed by both sides. The farmer is the special object of legislative nurture in the Local Legislature just as the manufacturer is in the Dominion House.

## FROM THE CAPITAL.

### Latest Political and General News from Ottawa.

#### The Fisheries Commission—Our Shipping Acts—Militia and Defence—Election Matters—A Hairbrained Project—A Big Strike—Miscellaneous.

From our own Correspondent. OTTAWA, Feb. 8, 1883.  
The present attitude of the Executive may be described as awaiting the result of the Fisheries Commission. Many executive acts are pending the return of three important departmental heads, the appointment of a judge for Prescott and Russell and the awarding of the ocean mail contract being cases in point. In a few days ago there was a great cry that a treaty had been drafted which turned out to be false, but it drew from Sir John Macdonald the important statement that an agreement had been reached on several points and others were still under discussion—of course the unsettled matters are the main points. That the Alaska boundary line is being now discussed seems proved by the departure of Prof. G. M. Dawson, who is thoroughly posted on the subject. If this Commission selects the boundary between British Columbia and Alaska a dangerous snag will have been avoided, for, owing to the deposits of gold in that section, requests for patents from either one government or another are sure to be frequent. The Government should appoint the graduates of this college to permanent government positions. This is going a little too far. If we are at great expense to give these young men the benefit of a good college curriculum, combined with a discipline which should fit them for the world, and then keep them at the public expense the balance of their days, it is a sad lookout. Young men of their abilities, education and advantages ought surely to be able to carve out their future. Agents, most of the students are sons of rich men, and if they care for the country that reared them, will say-in without such inducements.

## THE EDITOR'S TABLE.

### A Word or Two About New Publications That Have Come to Hand.

A HUNDRED FAMOUS AUTHORS.—To the exact, one hundred and two famous authors find place in the fifth volume of the "Cyclopaedia of Universal Literature." The list is headed by Mary Gowden Clerk of England, living, and closes with Cyprian, of Carthage, A. D. 200-238. Between these appear the names of not less than thirty two American authors (which shows the great importance of the work in this respect) including the names of S. L. Clemens (Mark Twain), Robert Collyer, J. F. Cooper, Henry Clay, Bishop Core, F. S. Ozzens (author of Sparrowgrass Papers), F. M. Crawford, and Geo. Wm. Curtis, French literature is represented by Couvyn and Comte, Chinese by Confucius, Italian by Colonna—and thus the whole work is brought under tribute. The plan of the work is certainly original, and excellent judgment has been shown both in the choice of authors and in the subjects. When completed the student and general reader will have a complete Cyclopaedia of all that is valuable in the whole range of literature. The form in which it is issued is as superior as it is unique, the volumes are handy, the type all that can be desired, and the general reader will have a complete Cyclopaedia of all that is valuable in the whole range of literature.

## OUR SHIPPING DISASTERS.

### We notice a Toronto paper yesterday calling loudly for a Government Inspector of hulls *opero* of the Oriental inquiry. Why, bias his innocent soul, there are inspectors of hulls, and the law makes it incumbent on the vessel owner to have an official inspection of the hull at least once a year. The provisions of the Steamboat Inspection Act are very stringent and ample, if properly administered, and a kudos art, the title of which I forget at the moment, provides for the inspection of other kinds of vessels, and states that that any one in liberty to complain of the condition of a vessel and have it detained in port until officially inspected. The law may not be efficiently enforced, but that's another matter.

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### Major General Middleton's forthcoming annual report will be as complimentary as usual to the militia force, and will recommend an increase in numbers, new arms, and a longer time in camp. The new infantry school at London will be opened early in the spring when 100 men may enter on a three years term and 20 on a three months, course. A contract has been awarded for the erection of huts on the Pacific coast, and I have seen in the Militia Department here plans for a series of fortifications at Victoria harbor, which include earth works and emplacements in which good sized guns will be mounted. An arrangement has been entered into by the Dominion Government with the Imperial authorities under which the Dominion is to contribute to the defensive works at the joint expense—in what proportion is not known.

## ELECTION MATTERS.

The straight convention candidate, Mr. Dickson, beat his brother Conservative, ex-Sheriff Powell, by an official majority of 573. But this is not all. The ex-Sheriff's brother-in-law, Senator Clemons, and his followers, are incensed at the interference of Mr. C. H. Mackintosh in Carleton, and declare that they will support Mr. Edwards in the coming contest in Russell against Mr. Mackintosh, the Conservative candidate. Mackintosh, however, is a dauntless fighter. The result of the Halton contest is known by this time. In Joliets, Que., Mr. Gillbank, Conservative, has been unseated, and Mr. Neven is now claiming the seat. Argument on this point will be heard on the 18th. Mr. Gillbank was returned at the general election by the casting vote of the returning officer, the electoral vote being a tie. We have not after all heard the list of Holdmaid, Mr. Coulter having appealed against the decisions of Judge Street, to the Supreme Court. The petition against the return of Mr. Joncas, M. P. for Gaspé, has been dismissed on the six month's rule. The protest in Montmagny will not be heard until after the session. Mr. Choquette, the sitting member, is a Liberal, and defeated Mr. Landry, of Riel fame. Dr. Wilson, East Elgin, has come out of his trial successfully, being confirmed in his seat. In my next I will state clearly the position of each appeal to be heard by the Supreme Court on the 21st.

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## MISCELLANEOUS.

### Tenders are asked for the erection of a commodious two-story parsonage in connection with Nile Methodist church.

A series of well attended revival services have been held in the Methodist church under the direction of Rev. Henry Irvine, the resident pastor. Rev. J. Kestle, Bonmillier, assisted last Thursday and Friday evening, and good work was done.

### OHARAWI, Feb. 7.—Mr. Abram Farwell, ex-M.P.P., for South Ontario, passed quietly away this morning, at 5 o'clock, at his residence at Aramony.

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