

tions of political contests in the Assembly. We sincerely hope that the system which prevails in the United States will never be introduced here. But we must not lose sight of the cause of the sweeping removals in the United States on a change of government. It is to be ascribed to the general interference of the officers of government in political contests. When such interference takes place, as a matter of course the parties must abide the consequences. We hold that "subordinate non-political public servants," as the Herald calls them, ought not to interfere directly or indirectly in political contests. If they do so, they ought at once to be dismissed by the government in whose employment they are. Customs, even our political opponents should be understood that every Ministry of the day? or Express follows that if one or two of our Ministers deliberately offend in this way they ought to be punished.

There is one other subject worth calling attention to. Earl Grey is we think disposed to limit too much the number of political offices. Of course he writes with reference to Nova Scotia, a Province considerably less important than Canada, and has made a qualification in the following paragraph:—"In the practical application of these views, there will, I am aware, be room for considerable difference of opinion. In this, as in all questions of classification, varying circumstances, and the various views taken by different men, will give rise to discussions and occasional alterations with respect to particular offices. Your acquaintance with what has passed, and is passing in the Mother Country, will suggest to you instances in which the question has been raised, whether a particular office should, or should not, be a Parliamentary office; and some in which different officers have been deliberately removed from the one to the other class."

It is not in our opinion desirable, at least with the present limited representation, to add much to the number of offices, but it is indispensable in certain departments of government that the heads should have about them some one or two individuals in whom they can place entire political confidence, and on whom they can rely for assisting cordially to carry out that policy which they may deem for the public interest. These are all, it is true, matters of detail, which must necessarily be arranged according to circumstances, and which it is needless to discuss on the present occasion. Earl Grey's Despatches are, in our opinion, most valuable documents. It will be observed that his Lordship is no friend to coalition Ministries, and that he explains Responsible Government so as to leave no doubt whatever as to his meaning as "that system of Parliamentary Government which has long prevailed in the Mother Country, and which seems to be a necessary part of Representative Institutions in a certain stage of their progress." How different this from Lord Metcalfe's explanations!

We have one word to say to the Herald. It says that all parties here profess to admire "British practice" and to imagine from that every "British practice" ought to be introduced here as a matter of course. The "British practice" that we have professed to admire is the system of Parliamentary Government; but even the Herald would not introduce an Established Church, or an Hereditary Peersage into Canada, because such institutions had the sanction of "British practice." So with regard to the pension system. If that system be unsuited to a young, and poor country like Canada, and disapproved of by its inhabitants, it ought not to be urged on us by the Imperial authorities, merely because it is "British practice." This we feel assured is the view that will be taken of the subject by the people at large.

COMMON SCHOOL THE BEST!
SCHOOL.
We utterly repudiate, as unworthy, not of freemen only, but of men, the narrow notion, that there is to be an education for the poor as such. Has God provided for the poor a coarser earth, a thinner air, a paler sky? Does not the glorious sun pour down his golden flood as cheerily upon the poor man's hovel, as upon the rich man's palace? Have not the cotter's children as keen a sense of all the freshness, verdure, fragrance, melody, and beauty of luxuriant nature as the pale sons of kings? Or is it on the mind that God has stamped the imprint of a baser birth, so that the poor man's child knows, with an unborn certainty, that his lot is to crawl, not climb?
It is not so. God has not done it. Man cannot do it. Mind is immortal. Mind is imperial. It bears no mark of high or low, of rich or poor. It knows no bound of time or place, of rank or circumstance. It asks not feed-me. It requires but light. It is heaven-born, and it aspires to heaven.—Weakness does not enfeeble it.—Poverty cannot depress it.—Difficulties do not stimulate its vigor. And the poor tallow-chandler's son, that sits up all the night to read the book which an apprentice lends him, lest the master's eye should miss it in the morning, shall stand and tread with kings, shall add new provinces to the domain of science, shall bind the lightning with a hempen cord, and bring it harmless from the skies. The Common School is common, not as inferior, not as the school for poor men's children, but as the light and air are common. It ought to be the best school, because it is the first school; and in all good works the beginning is one half.—Who does not know the value to a community of a plentiful supply of the pure element of water? And infinitely more than this is the instruction of the Common School; for it is the fountain at which the mind drinks, and is refreshed and strengthened by its contact of usefulness and glory.
Bishop Doane.

A DUEL.
The peace and quiet of our good old City of Kingston, was very unceremoniously disturbed on Saturday last, by the belligerent attitude of two of Her Majesty's good and faithful servants, who proposed to themselves to go to war on their own hook. The parties concerned in this most dishonourable affair, were Major Sadler, magistrate of the Midland District, and Judge Armstrong from Bytown. A dispute arose between them respecting some property, in the heat of which, the Judge called the Major a liar; and subsequently the Major sent him a challenge. Matters being thus settled, the next morning the two worthies, the next day to be accomplished, was the acquisition of two honourable At-

ornies as second. Charles Stuart, Esq., Registrar, was called upon to see that the play was shown to the Judge, and Greenfield McDonald, Esq., was called upon to perform the same office towards the Major. Things being thus arranged, they betook themselves to the ice, somewhere between the City and Garden Island, and there their weapons fouled, made the attempt. At the signal given, the Major? in the air! at Judge, who expressed his satisfaction; which, they having been inflicted on either side, they returned without having it. "O honour, thou blood stained god!" Shame! Shame! where wilt thou hide thy diminished head? under the folds of the garments of the administrators of our laws; a Judge! a Magistrate! a Registrar! Will our government look calmly on, and see those who are appointed to protect and honour law, and administer justice, thus wantonly become the aggressors? We think not. Such an outrage, certainly, calls for the dismissal of the offenders, and that others be appointed who are more careful to maintain the dignity of the laws, and the security of society. When the honour of our public functionaries is of such a questionable character, as to require the life of one or the other, to maintain that honour; they are neither suitable for office, nor can they be considered good patterns for society. Are we to suppose that a man who authorized to pass judgment in cases of common assault, has not laid himself open to the law, by committing an act of far greater malignity? Are we to suppose that a magistrate can commit an act of atrocity, and yet escape the punishment due to such offence? The community have, at least, a right to demand the dismissal of the whole three of these men from office, and the sooner they are made an example of the better.—Kingston Herald.

HURON SIGNAL.
FRIDAY, MARCH 3, 1848.
CLAP-TRAP.
OR THE SCIENCE OF GULLING.

History has in most instances chronicled the origin and progress of the various sciences which have thrown a kind of divine halo around the sombre annals of human imperfection; but although we can obtain a partial knowledge of the different periods and on different occasions, yet nobody has thought proper to write a succinct history of its introduction and progress in the world. As unlike all other sciences, however, it can only produce evil, we may safely give it an existence co-eval with the human race, and suppose that it was communicated to our grand-uncle Eve, during the tragical dialogue in Eden. Its nomenclature is as extensive as that of chemistry and its effects more astonishing and more desolating. It has dissolved the strongest ties of nature, arrested the progress of truth, quenched the aspiring rays of intellect, and even deluged with blood the populous empires of the earth. We trace it not back into the misty regions of antiquity, nor enumerate the thousand mysterious and unmeaning phrases which like electric charms have heralded its career of ruin. Our illustrations of its nature, shall be confined to our own times. "Loyalty," and the "Church in danger," are among its oldest watchwords; they have stood the test of ages and are still fresh and energetic yet. In a pamphlet entitled "Observations on Morals and Politics," published by William Tait, of Edinburgh, in 1837, we defined the word Loyalty, as employed by our chivalrous ancestry, "a blind-fold or reckless determination to be massacred for the interest or ambition of the ruling power." But bad as things are, we are happy in being able to state that loyalty in Canada has no such mad meaning; it embodies nothing of blood or battles; in fact, it embodies nothing but a kind of silly intention to bespatter honest simplicity with a kind of shallow flattery, and when we read a string of paragraphs, each one commencing with "My loyal Men of—!" we feel a sort of instinctive tendency to remember the ultra loyalty of the ancient Hebrews, when they bawled out "O, King, live forever!" or the High Church enthusiasm of the Ephraim, when they shouted "Great is Diana!" But upon serious reflection, we think that both the Jews and the Ephraim were sincere in the expression of their absurdities, and therefore it would be unjust to compare them to our modern loyalists. In fact we are unable to find any suitable comparison for these loyalists, save that of a cask of small beer in a state of fermentation; it keeps bizzing and bunning and making all sorts of noise, and you would really suppose that the cask was filled with some powerful chemical preparation till impelled by curiosity, you extract the bung, and discover that the consequential noise has emanated from—small beer!

But this bawling of loyalty has a bad effect on the character of its votaries in the estimation of thinking men. The man who, when giving you a narrative of his business transactions, has made a digression at the end of every half-dozen sentences, in order to assure you that he is honest and honourable, and straightforward, may create suspicion, but he will seldom produce the impression which he intended. There is no disloyalty in Canada. The Radicals are all loyal men and true. They do not wish to erect or support any barriers of exclusiveness between the different races of her Majesty's real subjects, but by so doing, they should create a subject of disaffection in the excluded party. They have no desire to exercise a despotic and degrading authority over the inhabitants of lower Canada, simply because the majority of them happen to be a conquered people. They are not disposed to bully, and bluster, and insult their neighbour Jonathan and his republican institutions; they admit and admire his energy and enterprise; they are willing to give him credit for the good he has done. The Radicals, like the Chief Superintendent of Education, think that not only the system of education, but many other things that have resulted from republican Jonathan, are worthy of imitation; but while they are willing to admit all this, they are neither ashamed nor afraid to tell him, in the most pointed but civil terms, that he had better keep his own side of the brook, except on errands of commercial intercourse, and then we will meet him and greet him with a hearty shake of the right hand of fellowship.

Conservative men of Canada will you not come forward and assist to conserve, not our connexion with Britain, that would be absurd as to beguile the waters of the Maitland Lake, but to conserve the real heart-affections of the whole people of Canada to Canada itself, by radically rooting out every vestige of corruption and partiality, from our institutions, and thereby making men not only believe but feel that their own country and their own laws are truly the best country and laws in the world.

In speaking of conserving, we may remark, that it is a new technicality in the nomenclature of gulling. We have heard so much of about Conserving and Conservatism and Conservatism, that we have actually got bewildered in endeavouring to find out the connexion between the real significance of the words and the multifarious mass of ideas to which they are stuck. And when we hear a man in Canada talk or write about Conserving, "these glorious institutions" which constitute the bulwarks of British liberty, we feel a little alarmed for his sanity. Perhaps the obtuseness of an intellect prevents us from being charmed with the vulgar platitudes of these institutions in Canada. And unless some of our gigantic loyalists will step down from this great generalizing stalking-horse and condescend on particulars, by putting the finger upon some of these glorious institutions, and proving that the future prosperity of the country is inseparably involved in the present condition of them. We say that until they are willing to do so, we make them welcome to the benefit of the following anecdote:—

On one of those formerly frequent occasions in England, when the High Church party only maintained the ascendancy by an extensive practice in the science of gulling, (clap-trap is significant but not polished), Lord George Gordon, the leading bigot of his times, harangued and speeched till he infuriated a great mob with the idea that the Liberals were going to bring over the French to establish Popery, and that all the people of England would be compelled to wear wooden shoes! This mob composed of the very dregs of society paraded, the reckless defiance of all law, the streets of London, shouting lustily "No Popery. No wooden shoes!" and marking their career of loyalty by acts of violence and outrage. A lump of a rough ragged Irish Catholic hearing the great tumult in a neighbouring street, run with all his might to see what was afoot. Plunging into the crowd, and catching hold of the enthusiasm and the watchword at the same moment, he began to vociferate in a kind of savage desperation "No Popery. No wooden shoes!" But the fury of his roaring soon exhausted him, and when quite hoarse and breathless he halted to enquire what the thing meant, and on being told, he wheeled out of the crowd in the very worst of bad humour, saying "Arrah, and if I had known that, bad luck to the shout would I have shouted!"

Now, we would seriously advise some of our worthy friends to try if they can reduce Conservatism into something that is understandable to themselves at least—if they can give it a more tangible shape—in short to try if they can furnish it with a "local habitation and a name" in Canada. For we should really feel sorry if they should build themselves houses and dwellings, and then like the enthusiastic Irishman have to ask the meaning of the thing.

POLITICS FOR THE PEOPLE—NO. 5.
KING'S COLLEGE.
We take it for granted, that no party, either political or religious, in Upper Canada, will now offer to assert any dominant or superior claim to King's College and its revenues, farther than what may arise from the relative superiority of numbers as a body are more numerous than the Episcopalian Methodists, their additional claim is just proportioned to their additional number. Or, if the number of Free Church Presbyterians is twice that of the Free Communion Baptists, then consequently the claim of the former is just double that of the latter. And supposing the division of the University and its revenues to be either practicable or desirable, such would be the only rule of equity. Or, supposing the soundness of the policy of making it a national Institution, equally accessible to all, the result would still be an approximation to justice, because the largest body was likely to send the largest number of students. It appears, however, from the latest published returns, that after making the necessary deductions for the management and other liabilities of the Institution, the net amount of income of King's College is that of £6000; a sum altogether inadequate to the maintenance of a national University, and still more useless in the support of 27 or 28 Theological Seminaries. But if the gross revenue of the Institution is in reality about ten thousand pounds, it might be advantageously applied in the promotion of popular instruction; and perhaps it can be shown that this application of it is more defensible, both on the grounds of utility and justice, than either the division scheme or a national Literary Institution. It may be safely assumed, that all objections against perverting the original intention of the endowment are now set aside. The Government measure of last session was a plain and public declaration to that effect: it proposed a division of the endowment between the Wesleyan Methodists, Episcopalian, Church of Scotland Presbyterians, and the adherents to the Church of Rome. Such a division never was contemplated the original endowment; and from whatever quarter it might emanate, it is inherently wrong, because the several appointments were intended to support and propagate the religious views of the respective parties to whom they were to be given, and the views of all these four denominations cannot possibly be right, inasmuch as they are opposed to each other. We do not pretend to say how far any of them is either right or wrong, but we do say they cannot be all right; and as no honest man will, knowingly, attempt to advocate the establishment of error, it is evident that the great diversity of opinion prevailing in the religious world is an unanswerable objection against all civil establishments of sectarianism; because after all that has been said upon the subject, it appears that the only evidence that can be adduced in behalf of the superior divinity or intrinsic truth of any particular creed, is the mere fact that the professors of that creed believe it to be true; while by uniting the professors of all the other different

creeds you have a great majority, declaring and believing conscientiously that it is not true.—This certainly does not prove that all religions are false, but it proves the absurdity and injustice of all attempts to establish a national religion, while the incalculable diversity of physical organization and mental constitution in man, precludes the possibility of obtaining a uniformity of faith. This mental constitution is a charter from the great Author of nature, authorizing every man to worship according to the dictates and tenor of the charter, but forbidding him imperatively to interfere with the worship of his neighbour who holds an equally genuine charter from the same sovereign source. As a member of the Church of Scotland, our objection to being taxed for the support of Episcopalianism is not stronger than our objection to support, by compulsion, the Church of Rome; and while we would resist all attempts to compel us to pay for the propagation of either of these creeds, we equally disclaim all right or desire to receive by enactment, either directly or indirectly from the members of these Churches, one sixpence to the support of Presbyterianism. If these views are correct, it is obvious that the endowment of one, two, or even all the different sects of the Christian Church is unwarrantable. The original intention of the endowment of King's College was not the promotion of peculiar or conflicting religious opinions, and as the Government has taken the liberty of offering to pervert it to that purpose, another Government has just an equal right to apply it to a different purpose, and as it is impossible to propose any application of it more in harmony with justice and utility, we will hope that the coming Administration will settle the question by applying it to purposes of general education.

A National Literary Institution, where the several branches of science are taught, upon the simplest method, and upon the most reasonable terms, would certainly be, not only honourable but advantageous to the country. As most Universities, however, are the sources of more words than ideas, it would perhaps be desirable that a very important change should be effected in the nature of these institutions before advocating their claims to public support. It is a fact that the honour and true greatness of a country result principally from her learned men and her literary institutions, but it is also true that much of what is emphatically called learning is comparatively if not entirely useless. There is perhaps more time and money expended in acquiring a knowledge of Greek and Latin, than is spent in obtaining scientific information; and it is certainly difficult to understand how either the physical or moral condition of society can be benefited by the fact, that perhaps every thousand man had learned to read Greek or Latin. It is certainly a great mystery how the practical usefulness of a man in Canada can be increased by spending four or five years in what is ridiculously called a "Humanity Class!" in acquiring a knowledge of the absurdities and lewd obscenities of Ovid, or the bacchanalian odes of Anacreon! The real greatness of a country depends upon her science, upon her literature, upon her learning; but not the learning of words. Greek and Latin had no influence in the discovery of the power of steam, the construction of the steam-engine, the invention of railroads, the introduction of the magnetic telegraph, nor even the successful prosecution of the simple occupations by which man earns his bread. In short so far as the promotion of social prosperity is concerned, Latin and Dutch and Greek and Gaelic, are equally valuable. The fact of the non-ascertainment of different sciences being written in Latin, only proves the design of mystifying learning, and it is plain that an English nomenclature sufficient to serve all English students in future, could be produced for a trifle of the expense required to make one student master of the Latin language. This mania for language learning, is one great objection to a national University. The next is, that comparatively few have the means of bestowing a college education upon their sons, and as learned or professional men contrive to be pretty handsomely paid for their learned labours, it saves a little of the Market metaphor to keep up a national institution for the benefit of these few; besides, however ornamental or beneficial a few learned men may be, it is questionable if a community, where every individual possessed such a glimmer of intelligence as would enable him to perceive the duties which he owed to himself and to society, would not be a more prosperous and a more happy community than one which could merely boast of a few brilliant stars. And as the revenue of King's College, is apparently insufficient for any other purpose which has yet been proposed, it might certainly be judiciously and honestly applied, in conjunction with the proceeds of the Clergy Reserves, to the promotion of popular instruction.

THE MONTREAL GAZETTE.
We thank the "Montreal Gazette" for the waggy iron with which he has noticed us.—We cannot but feel complimented by the very fact that our humble "Signal" on the shores of Lake Huron, has elicited nearly a whole column of Editorial from the talented organ of her Majesty's deceased Government, even though intended as a left-hand compliment. We must, however, claim the liberty of hinting that the argument of a "universal fact" by which the Gazette would prove the necessity of two conflicting political factions; would, in the sixteenth century, have gone an equal length in proving the necessity of witch-burning, this revolting demonism was just as much a "universal fact" at that period, as selfish Conservatism is now.—We must also observe that the several achievements of mind composing what the Gazette calls an "exquisite specimen of the anti-climax," were not arranged according to their ingenuity or obliquity, but rather in relation to time, and however gratifying it might be to the Gazette to place the downfall of the Sherwood Administration before the commencement of the Metcalf Government, we must admit it would look rather awkward in chronology. But after all, we are not certain but we have placed the climax at the right end; for although the occurrences of the last four years show plainly that the party supported by the Gazette, do really put the political destiny of Canada upon a level with the overturning of "the hay-stack of Mr. John Stokes, farmer of Newington Green"—yet the Editor of the "Huron Signal" has self-possession enough to regard it as a matter of almost infinite importance. By the by, will the Gazette exchange?

TO THE EDITOR OF THE HURON SIGNAL.
DEAR SIR,—From a letter this day received from the Editor of the Huron Gazette, I am given to understand that in order to make room for my Communication in his paper of the 25th ult., certain advertisements that should have appeared in that paper, were necessarily postponed; and as I should exceedingly regret again to trespass in the same manner upon the good nature of that gentleman, may I request from you the favour of insertion to the enclosed in your next.
I remain, Dear Sir,
Your truly,
JOHN GALT.

To the Editor of the Huron Gazette.
SIR,—I again repeat, despite of all you have said to the contrary, that Mr. Gwynne did stand forward as the Liberal Candidate—or if you like it better, Radical—(being at the same time Conservative in every thing affecting his allegiance to his Queen and country to the full as much as Mr. Cayley, or any of his supporters, yourself not excepted.) If never was endeavored to palm Mr. Gwynne on the County of Huron as a Conservative in the meaning of the word when applied to what is called the Conservative party. It never was stated, nor was it pretended that Mr. Gwynne belonged to that party; his opposition to Mr. Cayley was evidence of itself that he did not. But it was stated, and is now maintained, that he was and is, in all matters affecting the Constitution, as good, ay, a better Conservative than this same party who make so much noise about their conservatism.

There is no question in my mind, that when Mr. Stewart supported Mr. Gwynne; he took precisely the same view of the matter that I did; viz: that the late Ministry—for I hope by this time that they may both be written and spoken of as late—had Conservatism on their lips, but retention of office in their hearts, and cared but little for the Constitution, provided they could keep their place. Any thing that tended to this purpose, be it right or wrong, seems to have been their policy; and the only thing that astonished, or even the whisper of it, when they themselves are individually concerned: so blind when the great interests of the public are at stake. Do such parties suppose the Constitution benefited or strengthened by fraud perpetrated and defended daily in the most barefaced manner, on the floor of the House of Assembly? Injustice unparliamentarily done, not only to individuals, but to whole constituencies, provided this very Conservative party, the embodiment of the whole loyalty and rectitude of the Province, (if we are to believe their statements relative to themselves rather than their actions,) are retained in power.

As you could only have obtained your information relative to the previous election from third parties, you cannot, in fairness, be held responsible for any inaccuracies that may have appeared in your statement, but it is notorious to many in this neighbourhood, that I did not give an "unqualified support to Mr. Cayley," but at the public meeting that was held in the British Hotel to take into consideration the claims of the several Candidates who might present themselves as desirous of obtaining the suffrages of the Electors, (one of the largest meetings ever held in Goderich,) the question was put to me, as to whether I had not previously suggested Mr. Malcolm Cameron as a fit person to represent this County, and promised my support to him in the event of his coming forward? I at once admitted that I had, and stated that the support I now gave Mr. Cayley, was founded on precisely the same grounds as that previously tendered to Mr. Cameron which was done, not so much with the view of forwarding a political party, as to serve the interests of the country. I may further remark, that his opponent, Mr. Longworth, had with reference to the College question declared himself in a most illiberal manner, thus it remained as far as politics were concerned, of two evils to choose the least.

I shall make no comments on the stress you attempt to lay on the word Radical; you are welcome, if you see fit, to consider me as one. Suffice to say that I have now been resident in this County for nearly fifteen years, and during that period, I defy any person or party to say with truth, that I ever gave utterance to any sentiment or committed any act, that in the most remote manner bordered on disloyalty; and I trust that the "Men of Huron" will believe me to be quite as sound in my political views, having had such ample opportunity of judging of my character, as they will the Editor of any journal of two weeks standing in the county.

To conclude, I would feel obliged by your favouring me, by quoting the Act and the clause, giving the precise words of the clause that prevents my "interference" at elections. As I am not aware of any such, I rather think that the word "interfering" has been found in a copy specially printed for the Huron Gazette, and it certainly does not appear in any one in my possession furnished by the government.
I remain, Sir,
Your most obedient Servant,
JOHN GALT.
Goderich, 29th Feb., 1848.

NIAGARA FOUNTAIN.—We have received this wholesome visitor. Its columns are devoted to the advocacy of "Total Abstinence," and from the vast importance of the Cause and the genuine energy and philanthropic spirit of its Conductor, the "Fountain" has certainly a claim upon the patronage of all who believe in the moral improviability of man. For however much may be boasted of our Canadian sobriety, and however much reformation may actually have resulted from the efforts of Temperance Societies, it is truly deplorable to read the number of drunken citizens, deaths, and murders which are recorded in one weekly issue of the "Niagara Fountain." Of all the delusions which hell has manufactured and thrown upon this earth for the destruction of the human race, the greatest, the most prevalent, and the most fatal is that of spirit drinking. It is no exaggeration of facts to assert that it has produced more real suffering, misery, and premature death than the combined ravages of famine, pestilence and war. The amount annually spent in prosecuting and punishing the crimes of drunkenness, is greater than that expended on the education of the whole community. And what is the great consequence, the great happiness, which the Drunkard himself receives for all this ruin and disorder which he inflicts upon society? In our next we shall give a picture of Drunken happiness.

"OURSELVES."—We came to Goderich with the intention of staying two months and looking at the place, and talking a little and writing a little in order to assist in introducing a newspaper of the "right sort" among the inhabitants of Huron, and after having done so we intended to go home to the banks of the Canadian Mississippi, and resume our work like other decent industrious men. But really the friendship and encouragement which we have experienced in Goderich, the extreme satisfaction of being talked about, and noticed, and laughed at, and praised and ridiculed by such a host of Editors, and above all the universal regret which would be felt throughout the "loyal county of Huron" on our departure, have induced us to defer our intention, and we now intend (if good health is granted) to remain till the month of October at least, and if our supporters increase as they have done during the last three weeks, we will then be enabled to leave the "Huron Signal" with the largest circulation of any local paper in Canada.

FATAL ACCIDENT.—On the 22d ult., a number of settlers in the Gore of Downie, assembled at James Kelly's on the Oxford road to a "chopping Bee." The first tree chopped was a very large Elm, upon which five men had been engaged, and while their attention was wholly occupied in watching the downfall of the Elm, a Beech tree upon which two other men had been employed, fell in the opposite direction to that expected, and came down upon the five men at the Elm, killing one of them on the spot and injuring very slightly some of the others. The two men who fell the Beech shouted on the first movement of the tree towards the fatal spot—but they were either not heard or not heeded. The deceased was Thomas Quirk, a native of Kerry, Ireland, aged about 26, he was of a peaceable disposition and generally respected by his neighbours. He has left a wife and two brothers to lament his untimely fate. A Coroner's inquest was held and a verdict returned according to the circumstances.

From the Toronto Globe.
OPENING OF THE NEW PARLIAMENT.

MONTREAL February 25, 1848.
This day, at three o'clock, P. M., his Excellency the Governor General, arrived in State to the Chamber of the Legislative Council, in the Parliament Buildings, and took his seat upon the Throne.

The members of the Legislative Council being assembled, his Excellency was pleased to command the attendance of the Legislative Assembly, and that House being present.

The Hon. P. McGill, Speaker of the Legislative Council, stated on behalf of his Excellency, that he did not think fit to declare the causes for which he had summoned the present Parliament, until a Speaker of the Legislative Assembly had been elected, according to law; and that his Excellency would, on Monday next, declare to them his reasons for summoning the present Parliament.

After which the Members of the Legislative Assembly retired to their own Chamber, when his Excellency withdrew.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY.
February 25, 1848.

ELECTION OF SPEAKER.
The House met at half-past three o'clock P. M., for choice of a Speaker.
Sir Allan McNab was proposed by Hon. W. Cayley, and seconded by Colonel Prince. House divided.—Yeas 19, Nays 24.
Divisors.—Yeas, Badgley, Boulton (W. H.), Cayley, Cameron (J. H.), Cayley, Chrysler, Daly, McDonald (J. A.), Malloch, Meyers, McLean, Prince, Robinson, Seymour, Sherwood (G.), Sherwood (H.), Smith (H.), Stewardson, Webster.—Nays, Balwin, Boabbin, Bell, Boulton (J. J.), Boutillier, Brookes, Burritt, Cauchon, Chabot, Chauveau, Christie, Davignon, Duchesnay, Dumas, Egan, Flint, Fortier, Fournier, Fourquin, Goguy, Guillet, Hall, Holmes, Jobin, Johnson, Lafontaine, LeFortier, Laurin, Lemieux, Leslie, Lyon, McDonald (J. S.), Marquis, McConnell, MacFarland, Merritt, Morrison, Nelson, Notman, Papineau, Scott, Richards, Sauvageau, Scott, (J. J.), Price, (W. H.), Smith, (Dr.), Tache, Thompson, Watts, Wetshall.—54.

Hon. A. N. Morin was proposed by Hon. L. H. Lafontaine, and seconded by Hon. L. H. Lafontaine.
Mr. Morin unanimously elected.
The House subsequently adjourned till 2 o'clock on Monday next.

FIRST MOVEMENT OF THE NEW PARLIAMENT.

The freely chosen Parliament of Canada yesterday commenced its proceedings most auspiciously by the election of Mr. Morin. Sir Allan McNab was first proposed, but rejected by the overwhelming majority of 32:1. Our readers will recollect that we gave a majority of 30 for the Reformers, and not one of our Reform Hut, who was present, voted on the other side, but several votes were given that we did not calculate on.

The House was very full for the first day, 75 members being present, viz:
Voted for Sir Allan McNab.....19
Against.....54
Sir Allan McNab.....1
Hon. A. N. Morin.....1
75

The deficiency is made up as follows:—
Beauharnois—Mr. DeWitt had the 1
majority, but a special return.... 1
Three Rivers—Dumoulin,—no return, 1
Bonaventure—Cuthbert..... 1
Terrebonne—Lafontaine—double return 1
Vaudreuil—Montgenais..... 1
Third Riding—Blake..... 1
London—Wilson..... 1
Niagara—Dickson..... 1
Kent—M. Cameron, special return.... 1

Among the 19 who voted for Sir Allan McNab, was Mr. Carroll, who had actually the assurance to take his seat for Oxford! And we rejoice to see Col. Prince among that number. There let him for ever remain.

THE WEATHER.—We have had a few coarse days, and a considerable quantity of snow—the roads are in a tolerable condition for sleighing, and much business has been done in Goderich this week. Messrs Gilmour & Co., have advertised Cash for any quantity of Wheat and the Farmers are embracing the opportunity of getting rid of their surplus produce. The present state of the foreign markets will not warrant any advance in price.