

THE SCHOOL QUESTION.

As we anticipated the Advertiser takes exception to our article in Monday's issue, in which we repelled the groundless charge preferred by it against the Board of School Trustees for their alleged carelessness and indifference in regard to the interests of our public schools. The writer is not at all pleased because we called him to account for the "vague, violent and windy" attack he made on the Board, in which there was no attempt at proof—nothing but assertions of the loosest character. He seeks now coward like to shield himself under the plea that it did not devolve on him to furnish proof or evidence. We must say that this is a very dishonorable kind of warfare, first to charge men with neglect of their duties, and after having publicly made that charge, to turn round and say it devolves on others to prove it. However, we notice from his article on Tuesday that he begins to show signs of relenting, for having as is usual with impulsive mortals gone too far, and stated what he could not substantiate, he now seeks to cover over his attack on the Board by damning them with such faint praise as "that he has the highest respect for the gentlemen who compose it." He also takes exception to our mode of dealing with his first effusion, and complains that we are attempting to cast ridicule on the heroic efforts of the Advertiser to reform our schools. Well, if plain speaking on our part be unseemly and unbecoming, as it seems to be in the opinion of the Advertiser, we plead guilty to the charge. When we have anything to say on any subject we prefer to go to the pith of it at once—not to beat about the bush. We prefer to use plain language and call things by their right names, even though we may offend the delicate sensibilities of writers like those in the Advertiser, who love to shower around them glowing metaphors, and whose multiplicity of words smother what semblance of ideas they ever embodied. Far be it from us to endeavour to deprive the Advertiser of any laurels it may win in this cause. It has been accustomed to consider itself a martyr to public opinion in almost every movement which has taken place within the last six years, and it will assuredly be claiming the same position again.

The writer aforesaid is quite jubilant over certain admissions we make in regard to the state of our public schools, and some suggested improvements which if made would add to their efficiency. But in saying that the schools are not what they might be, we took good care to state that these words were applied in the same sense as they may be employed in speaking of any institution or organization of a merely human character. They convey a very different meaning from the unqualified and sweeping condemnation contained in the Advertiser on Friday, for a stranger unacquainted with the condition and working of our schools would be led to believe from that article that they were in a most wretched state, and altogether useless as seminaries for the instruction of the young. We also stated in the most positive manner that in point of efficiency and attendance our schools stand as high as those of any other municipality in the country. The Advertiser in its second article has not the hardihood to dispute this, or to reaffirm the charges it preferred on Friday, which sought to cast a slur on their standing, and by implication on the efficiency of the teachers. On this subject we have the testimony of the editor of the Herald, who is an authority on this subject which the Advertiser cannot well dispute. He says in the Herald of yesterday—"We have been no uninterested observer of the public schools for the past twenty years, and we can confidently and truthfully affirm that our Common Schools were never previously either so efficient or so fully attended." We do admit, that improvements might be made as before suggested, but we would also remind the writer in the Advertiser that such improvements, however desirable, cannot be made in a day as he seems to think. It is a great pity the law would not permit the ratapayers to concentrate the whole functions of the Board in his person for one year. Then we would see reforms with a vengeance. Then we would have everything turned topsy-turvy the one week, and the next out of this chaos would be evoked such a perfect and wonderful system as would astonish Dr. Ryerson, and make Horace Mann stare if he was alive to see it.

It seems that our remarks in reference to the Grammar School and the honors—or more properly speaking degrees—recently conferred on its headmaster, gave the writer in the Advertiser the greatest offence. We are sorry to wound his feelings, or the feelings of the headmaster, but we cannot retract a single word we wrote. The question is asked, "If the attendance at the Grammar School is altogether too small, does it not prove

the unhealthy and inefficient state of the Common Schools from which it is proposed to draw its supplies?" We reply, by no means. The Common Schools are in an efficient state, and yet the attendance at the Grammar School is gradually decreasing. Not only do parents not send their children there, but we know of several cases in which parents who had their children there have taken them away because they are not satisfied with the progress they were making. It is the province of the teachers as much as that of the Trustees to strive and popularize the Grammar School, and if they fail in accomplishing that object all that the Trustees can do in that direction will amount to nothing. The broad fact stares us in the face that as stated by the Herald "some four or five years since there were at one period nearly eighty pupils on the school roll, while the average attendance for a series of years was from forty-five to sixty. Now, when we state that the average attendance registered on last semi-annual report to the Education Office was only 22, it will be apparent that there must be a cause for such a falling off." We leave it to the Advertiser to explain that cause.

As regards the degrees conferred on the headmaster, and the name which the Advertiser says the school has got from this, there may be great and diverse opinions. We seek not to detract from the fame of the University which conferred these degrees, nor to cast ridicule upon the headmaster who gained them. But we repeat what we have said already that though they may be accepted as a test of a man's talents, they are no test of his aptitude to teach or of his application in the discharge of his duties. As we said before what we want in our Grammar School are practical results, and until these begin to show themselves, all the honours in the world won't give it a name. The Herald has hit the mark exactly when it says:—"Halt a dozen honorary letters stuck to a man's name is apt to suggest to us the condition of a kite with an overload of gaudy curl papers in its tail, which, instead of aiding it to ascend, causes it to make many erratic evolutions." When those young men whom the Advertiser says are now attending the Grammar School, and who are going up for matriculation at the University, gain scholarships or honors, we shall give them and their teachers all due credit. But don't ask us to exult in their victory till they have secured it.

A new car, to be placed on the Erie Railroad, is to cost \$30,000. It will be divided into three compartments—a drawing-room in the centre, sleeping apartments at one end, and a regular day-coach compartment at the other.

The Post Office Savings Bank system has now been in operation for four months, and the result, so far, shows an average increase of deposits over withdrawals of about sixty-five thousand dollars per month.

By the railway traffic returns for the month of July, published in Saturday's Gazette, we learn that on all the railways in the Dominion, of which returns have been made, there has been an increase in receipts over the same period of last year, except in those of the Great Western and London and Port Stanley, which show a slight falling off.

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New Advertisements.
MONEY LOST.
LOST on Wednesday last, on the Omnibus between the Great Western Station and Guelph, on the stage between Elton and Guelph, a yellow envelope, addressed to Rev. J. G. McGregor, containing a sum of money. The finder will be suitably rewarded by leaving it at THE MERCURY OFFICE, Guelph.
Guelph, August 17. d2 w1

Educational Classes
THE MISSES RHEMMIE
OF London, England and New York, propose opening their Educational Classes early in September. Young ladies desiring improvement, or finish in the elegant or useful branches, will be received as boarders or daily pupils.
Temporary residence: Mrs. Williams, Waterloo Road. Circulars at Mr. Cuthbert's Bookstore, Guelph, August 15. 12d1

MISS L. RHEMMIE,
Teacher of Singing and Pianoforte,
PUPIL of the best Masters in England, having taught successfully for some in New York, has removed to Guelph, and hopes to receive a share of the patronage of the families and ladies of Guelph and vicinity.
Terms, &c., may be had at Mr. Cuthbert's bookstore, or Mrs. Williams's Boarding House, Guelph, Aug. 17. d2w

DOMINION STEAM
Washing Machine!
A MOST SUCCESSFUL AND WONDERFUL INVENTION!
New Method of Washing CLOTHES
WITHOUT WEAR OR TEAR BY FRICTION!

It has been thoroughly tested, and declared a PERFECT SUCCESS. It is now in operation on the Market Square, opposite the VEGETABLE SHEDS, and one door West of the old ADVERTISER'S Office.
Any Person can have a Machine to Test it.
Ladies are respectfully solicited to call and examine this wonderful machine, while in operation, and judge for themselves.
WILSON & STEARNS, Agents.
Guelph, August 17. d2w

MEDICAL HALL!
Wyndham Street, Ontario, Guelph.
E. HARVEY & CO.
DYE STUFFS!
THE Subscribers desire to draw attention to the largest and best assorted stock of Dye Stuffs ever imported into the Town of Guelph, including—
Logwood, Chip & Ext. Brazil Wood, Camwood, Nic Wood, Peach Wood, Hypemic Wood, Maddar & Maddar Compound, Indigo and Indigo Compound, Flavine, Tin Crystals, Red Sanders Wood, Cochineal, Quercetion, Alum, Copperas, Blue Vitriol, &c. &c.
Also, all the ANALINE DYES, by the ounce or quantity.
E. HARVEY & CO., Cor. Wyndham & Macdonnell-Sts. Guelph.
Guelph, August 17. daw tf

Logwood, Chip & Ext. Brazil Wood, Camwood, Nic Wood, Peach Wood, Hypemic Wood, Maddar & Maddar Compound, Indigo and Indigo Compound, Flavine, Tin Crystals, Red Sanders Wood, Cochineal, Quercetion, Alum, Copperas, Blue Vitriol, &c. &c.
Also, all the ANALINE DYES, by the ounce or quantity.
E. HARVEY & CO., Cor. Wyndham & Macdonnell-Sts. Guelph.
Guelph, August 17. daw tf

How to Cool Off.
Gentlemen, come to the DOMINION SALOON
If you like a FANCY DRINK of any kind, got up in first-class style.
Pilsner's celebrated Plain Soda and Ginger Ale received daily from Hamilton.
DENIS BUNYAN. dwly

CLARK'S EXCELSIOR
Washing Composition!
The best and Rarest Discovery of the Age, for Washing Purposes,
Worth Twenty Dollars a Year
In a family of eight or ten persons.
It will wash in hard or soft water. Clothes require no rubbing. The dirt is boiled out in ten minutes, and the washing may be on the line before breakfast. It is warranted not to injure or discolor the clothes, and will also remove paint, grease, or stains of all kinds. Give it a fair trial and you will never be without it. "Family Rights," containing full directions for making and using the Composition, \$1 each. Sold at the Patentee's Music Store, and at A. B. PETER'S Drug Store, 75 WATER STREET, N. Y. W. WARNER CLARK, July 16th. dw Patentee, Guelph, Ont.

Dissolution of Co-Partnership.
THE Partnership heretofore existing between the undersigned, as Brewers, is this day dissolved by mutual consent. All claims owing by the late firm, will be settled by Mr. Geo. Sleeman, and all notes and accounts due the firm must be paid to him.
Witness: JOHN SLEEMAN, GEORGE SLEEMAN, A. M. JACKSON, JOHN SLEEMAN, Silver Creek Brewery, Guelph, August 12, 1868. daw 1m

PAINTER WANTED
HOUSE PAINTER WANTED. Apply to THOMAS BRADON.

New Advertisements.
INDIA & CHINA TEA CO'Y.
PUBLIC NOTICE.
SINCE the TEAS of the INDIA and CHINA TEA COMPANY were introduced into Canada, some eighteen months ago, their reputation, in spite of the misrepresentations of interested parties, has become widely extended. The quantities of Low Quality and Adulterated Teas introduced into Canada for sale to COUNTRY DEALERS, have largely increased, and the complaint of the difficulty of obtaining—
A PURE AND GENUINE ARTICLE
HAS EVEN BECOME MORE GENERAL.
All lovers of GOOD and GENUINE TEAS should try the India and China Tea Company's Packet Teas, sold by their Agent in every Town and large Village throughout the Dominion. They are GUARANTEED PURE and of the FINEST QUALITY.
Only two Prices—In air-tight packages, extra Black, Green (Hyson or Gunpowder) or Mixed, 70c. and \$1 per lb.
OBSERVE.—None are GENUINE, unless the Company's Trade Mark is on each packet.
N. B.—Those who desire Cheaper Teas, in half-chests or boxes, can obtain the cheapest and best in the Market, for Cash, on application to the CANADA DEPOT, 23 Hospital St., Montreal.—Samples sent on application.
The above TEAS are for sale at the MEDICAL HALL.
E. HARVEY & CO., Agents for Guelph.
Guelph, August 18. daw 3m

HOOP-SKIRTS
AT BUCHAM'S.
Newest & Most Becoming Styles
In Ladies', Misses' and Children's Hoop Skirts.
A. O. BUCHAM
Has on hand a full and complete assortment of the

CO-OPERATION
GUELPH, ONT.
Prarie Tea Sets, 44 pieces, Lustre Band, \$4.25.
Granite Toilet Sets, four Pieces, \$1.25.
Granite Unhandled Teas, per dozen, 75 cents.
Granite Dinner Plates, per dozen, 75 cents.
Bar Tumblers, 75 cents per dozen.
Cincinnati Goblets, Cut, \$2 per dozen.
Lamp Chimneys, 50 cents per dozen.
Lamp Chimneys, by the barrel, 40 cts. per doz.
The above Goods were purchased at the great Trade Sale in Toronto, and are of first-rate quality.
W. MACKLIN & CO.
Guelph August 17, 1868 daw

NEW GROCERY STORE!
E. O'DONNELL & CO.
Are now opening out a large and well selected stock of GROCERIES,
China, Crockery and Glassware!
(In the Store lately occupied by C. & T. Meredith, Wyndham Street.)
ALSO, A CHOICE STOCK OF
Wines, Liquors and Whiskies
Which they are determined to sell cheaper than any house in the trade. Parties wishing to purchase anything in their line will find it to their advantage to give them a call. As they are determined to
SELL FOR CASH ONLY!
GREAT BARGAINS MAY BE EXPECTED.
E. O'DONNELL & CO.
Wyndham Street, Guelph, 7th August, 1868. dw

DOMINION HOTEL
GUELPH.
JOHN BUNYAN begs to inform his friends and the public that he has leased the above Hotel, in the BRICK HOUSE, MACDONNELL-ST., a few doors above Higginbotham's Drug Store, and immediately opposite Messrs. Sharpe's Seedstore. There is a good stable attached to the house, with good and commodious stabling. Every attention will be paid to customers in order to secure their comfort and convenience. The best offshoot and cigars always kept at the bar. Good accommodations for Boarders by the week at reasonable rates.
Guelph, July 18th. daw 3m

PRESTON MINERAL BATHS!
AND SULPHUR SPRINGS,
IN CONNECTION WITH THE
NORTH AMERICAN HOTEL,
PRESTON, ONTARIO.
THESE popular Baths are open for the accommodation of the public. The Spring which supplies these Baths possesses medicinal qualities not surpassed by any other in America.
S. CORNELL, Proprietor
Guelph, July 18th. daw 3m

WANTED TO RENT.
WANTED to Rent a Cottage, or Single Dwelling of five or six rooms. Address Drawer Box No. 9, Guelph.

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CARPENTER and JOINER,
Comprising 15 Plates.
BY ROBERT RIDDLE

ELEMENTS of HAND RAILING
Comprising 17 Plates.
Carpentry Made Easy
Comprising 17 Plates.
BY WM. E. BELL

Day's Bookstore,
OPPOSITE THE MARKET.
Guelph, 11th August, 1868. dw
REMOVED OPPOSITE.
C. & T. MEREDITH
HAVE REMOVED
TO THE PREMISES LATELY OCCUPIED BY THE
Canada Clothing Store!

Remember No. 10.
C. & T. MEREDITH.
Guelph, August 10. do tf
TROTTER'S

Canadian Dentifrice
IS recommended by the following first-class Dentists as the best preparation for cleansing, beautifying and preserving the teeth: B. W. Day, M. D., L. D. S., Pres. of the Dental Association; W. C. Adams, L. D. S., Toronto; J. O'Donnell, Secretary, Dental Association; L. Lemon, L. D. S., St. Catharines; D. A. Bogart, L. D. S., Hamilton; J. W. Elliott, Toronto.
Price 50c. per box. For sale by all Drug-gists.
Guelph, June 22 daw 6m
TROTTER & GRAHAM,

DENTISTS!
GUELPH and BRAMPTON
LICENTIATES OF DENTAL SURGERY,
(Successors in Guelph to T. Trotter.)
Office, over Higginbotham's Drugstore
Guelph, 2nd August, 1868. (dw-ly)
Special Notice
TO THE PUBLIC GENERALLY.

E. CARROLL & CO.
BEG to notify that they are now receiving a large lot of NEW CHOP
TEAS
which they intend to sell cheaper than any house in Guelph. Examine OUR PRICES and judge for yourselves.
Young Hyson per lb. 75c. worth \$1 00
Old Hyson " " 50 " 0 75
Gunpowder " " 87 1/2 " 1 00
Japan " " 62 1/2 " 0 75
Congo " " 50 " 0 62 1/2
Souchong " " 62 1/2 " 0 75
And all other Goods equally low at
No. 2, DAY'S BLOCK.
Guelph, August 12. daw tf

FIRST CLASS MILL PRIVILEGE
TO BE SOLD AT
A BARCAIN.
AN Excellent MILL PRIVILEGE, with dam erected, situate on the Grand River, between the Villages of Fergus and Elora, in the County of Wellington and Province of Ontario, known as the KINNETLES MILL PROPERTY, containing about 44 acres.
The property is in close proximity to where the Wellington, Grey and Bruce Railway crosses the Grand River.
There is a fall of 16 1/2 feet, embracing both sides of the river, which gives a number of water-powers capable of being used for various kinds of manufactures.
The property is situated in the centre of one of the finest agricultural counties in the Dominion of Canada, with easy access to either the American or European markets, and is one of the most eligible properties now offered to the public.
Price moderate, terms liberal, the proprietor wishing to dispose of the property on account of falling health.
Further particulars can be learned on application, either personally, or by letter (prepaid) to
DAVIDSON AND CHADWICK,
Land and General Agents,
Town Hall Building, Guelph.
Guelph, Aug. 10. daw tf

SPECIAL NOTICE.
ALL parties indebted to the undersigned are hereby notified that if their accounts are not settled by note or otherwise on or before
THE FIRST DAY OF AUGUST NEXT,
they will be placed in court for collection. If paid before that time the bill will be taken at par in sums not exceeding \$50.
N. HIGGINBOTHAM, dtw
WANTED TO RENT.
WANTED to Rent a Cottage, or Single Dwelling of five or six rooms. Address Drawer Box No. 9, Guelph.