DECIMAL CURRENCY.

The Report of the Select Committee on Decimal Coinage, appointed by the motion of Mr. William Brown of Liverpool, has just been printed, and is a clear and concise document. It appears as might have been expected, that all the witnesses examined were unanimous respecting the advantages that would attend the introduction of the decimal system, and the only open question among them was with regard to the relative ease and superiority of the various methods suggested for its accomplishment. The Committee point to the fact of England having permitted herself to remain without this improvement in the face its general adoption in the different countries of the world, among which unbroken evidence of its value has since been afforded by the constant tendency to extend its application, not only in the case of money but also as respects weights and measures; and they then deal with the only two considerations that require to be met for its introduction. One of these is the popular prejudice, resulting from ignorance and indolence, against alterations of any kind, and the other is the necessity of rearranging the terms of all pecuniary obligations expressed in coins which would be abolished or changed in value by the new arrangement. Neither of them, however, presents the slightest difficulties beyond such as a rational people would be ashamed to recognise. The first is absolutely below notice, and although the committee while they rightly designate it as a matter upon which it is out of the question to argue, seem to consider it the more serious of the two, there is reason to hope that, in doing so, they underestimate the intelligence of the working classes, more especially as they admit that the witnesses who have spoken of the probable feeling of these parties state a conviction that the proposed change would be quickly be understood and appreciated. The Committee mention at the same time precedents which should remove all doubts upon the subject. In the United States the old system of pounds shillings and pence, was succeeded by the decimal system of dollars and cents, without any inconvenience having been caused, and in Ireland when the 13 pence, which at one time constituted an English shilling, were replaced by 12 English pence, although a prejudice was originally felt among the poor from their receiving only twelve coins of the same name as those of which they had previously got 12, they soon found that the injury was imaginary. With regard to the various contracts and prices which would have to be rearranged, the extent of the alterations rendered necessary would depend upon the exact system adopted. The plan recommended by the Committee is that the pound should be the unit, and that the relation of the several coins should be as follows:—

	Mills.		Mills.
Sovereign	1,000	New silver coin	20
Half-Sovereign	1,500		10
Crown	250		5
Florin	100	New copper coin	2
Shilling	50		1
Sixpence	25		

Under this plan the existing threepenny and fourpenny pieces would be put out of circulation, and, in place of the penny, a new copper coin would be introduced equal in value to the tenth instead of the twelfth part of a shilling. The payments that would be affected by the alteration are all those which at present are made in pounds, shillings and farthings, and although no compulsion would be used in the case of existing obligations, it would be in every case in the power of either party to compel, and with the altered value of the coin he receives for it, there are expenses such as tolls on railways, tolls, fares, rents, &c., in which private interests are involved that would have to be the subject of adjustment, since it, instead of exacting a sixpence or four farthings, as at present, the nearest equivalent for the decimal system would be, one of two—namely, one of two shillings, which would involve a loss to the receiver of the value of 4 pence only, which in the other hand, would be a loss to the payer of 20 pence. The cost of the proposed change is an important element in the consideration of the matter, as well as the expense of the change. Without a favorable conclusion upon this point, Mr. Newman Hall, in his evidence, estimates the cost at £100,000, and Mr. Jevons, at £1,000,000. All other things, however, merely relate to the way in which the great principle should be carried out or not. On that point the conclusion of the committee is unqualified and emphatic, and they consequently note the necessity of decisive action. Hence, as the commercial community have for many years past expressed their wishes for the change, and the evidence just collected from the best authorities is unanimous on the evil of neglecting it, the responsibility of future delay must now rest with the Government. At the same time there is no reason to apprehend disappointment in that respect, there recent statements on the subject having indicated a desire to avoid a collision with regard to it in the rear of public opinion.

Domestic Habits of our Ancestors.—Erasmus, who visited England in the early part of the sixteenth century, gives a curious description of an English interior of the better class. The furniture was rough; the walls unplastered, but sometimes wainscoted or hung with tapestry; and the floors covered with rushes, which were not changed for months. The dogs and cats had free access to the eating-room, and the meats of meat and bones were thrown to them when they devoured it by rooting and fighting amongst the rushes, or they could not get at it for mire, with the drawing of beer vessels and all manner of unmentionable abominations. There was nothing like refinement or elegance in the luxury of the higher ranks; the enormous quantities which their wealth permitted consisted of rough and wasteful profusion. Salt beef and strong ale constituted the chief food of the gentry. Erasmus's breakfast, and similar refreshments were served to her in bed for supper. At a series of entertainments given in York by the nobility in 1509, where each exhausted his inventions to outdo the others, it was universally admitted that Lord Goring won the palm for the magnificence of his fancy. The description of this supper will give us a good idea of what was then considered magnificent; it consisted of four huge brawny pigs, piping hot, buttered and harnessed with ropes of sausages to a huge pudding in a bag which served for a chariot.—*The Silent Revolution.*

Drinking.—The Springfield (Illinois) "Register" relates the following:—"In March last three men agreed to drink themselves to death. The first died in April, the second in May. The survivor, on the happening of the last event, showed signs of breaking the compact, and he kept sober two or three days afterwards, but honour revived and he died in June. This is literally true."

The advertised sale of Mr. Holmes' Lot in the new village of Maple, at the Richmond hill station of the Northern Railroad, took place yesterday (Friday) at the Auction Rooms of Messrs. Wakefield & Coate. The prices obtained averaged nearly £50 an acre, the highest being at the rate of £202, and the lowest of £18 6s per acre.—Of the 67 lots into which the village is laid out, 37 were sold for the aggregate sum of £1043 15s.

A Leap at the Falls.—One day last week the wife of a respectable citizen of Toronto, gave a sudden leap down 25 feet, slighted on a ledge of rocks, was somewhat stunned, but recovering herself and was about to spring over the edge into the terrible gulf far down below, when Mr. Wilson, who fits up the lightening rods here, sprang after her, and held her fast until ropes were let down and the woman and her deliverer safely drawn up from their perilous situation.

The French Emperor and the Empress have recently taken to shooting at St. Cloud. On Wednesday their Majesties went out in a boat on the "etangs" of St. Cyr, for the purpose of duck-shooting.—The Empress was provided with a light and elegant fowling-piece, with which she did such execution as showed her to be an accomplished sportsman. She shot four wild ducks, and each bird which fell was not only received with hurrahs by the courtiers, but afforded the Emperor an opportunity of expressing his satisfaction in a more tender manner. The historian of their Majesties' exploits declares that "l'Empereur embrassa l'Imperatrice tendrement."

ARRIVAL OF THE "ASIA."

New York, Sept. 8—11 P. M.

The "Asia," from Liverpool, August 27, arrived at 10, 30.

Nothing new from the East. Matters dull and unsettled.

Cotton quiet and unchanged.

Breadstuffs.—Market continues excited with weather again unsettled, and prices undiminished—wheat ranging 4d to 8d per bushel, and 1s 6d to 2s per bbl on flour.—Indian Corn begins to be inquired for at 6d to 1s advance. White American Wheat 8s 6d to 8s 8d. Red and mixed 8s to 8s 6. Western Canal flour 28s 6d to 29s 6d Baltimore and Philadelphia 30s to 31s; Ohio 30s 6d; sour 28s 6d; white and yellow corn 31s 6d to 32s 6d.

Provisions.—Beef, considerable sales in inferior and ordinary at fair prices. Pork steady and transactions small. Lard in fair demand and small sales at 54 a 60. Tallow—considerable done in North America.

London markets very excited.—Weather very unsettled. The harvest was progressing rapidly. The crops generally injured.

No political news of importance. The Eastern question totally unchanged, nothing new having transpired—every body regards it as settled.

The troubles in Servia, as before reported, do not reach the dignity of a revolt, but we anticipate party troubles. On the 24th ultimo, Mr. Ingersoll announced his recall and Mr. Buchanan was presented to the Queen. A report is Peace.

News by the Atlantic.

The Imperial Parliament was prorogued on the 20th Aug. by Royal Commission.—The Royal speech does not differ from the usual character of such documents, and consists only of generalities. On the Eastern question the Commissioners in the name of her Majesty say:—

It is with deep interest and concern that Her Majesty has viewed the serious misunderstanding which has recently arisen between Russia and the Ottoman Porte.

The Emperor of the French has united with Her Majesty in earnest endeavors to reconcile differences, the continuance of which might involve Europe in war.

Acting in concert with her allies, and relying on the exertions of the Conference now assembled at Vienna, Her Majesty has good reason to hope that an honorable arrangement will speedily be accomplished.

Her Majesty rejoices in being able to announce to you the termination of the war on the frontiers of the of the settlement of the Cape of Good Hope, and she trusts that the establishment of representative government in that colony may lead to the development of its resources, and enable it to make efficient provision for its future defence.

We are also commanded to congratulate you that by the united exertions of the naval and military forces of Her Majesty and of the East India Company, the war in Burmah has been brought to an honorable and successful issue. The objects of the war having been fully attained.

The Lord Chancellor then in the name of Her Majesty declared the Parliament prorogued to the 27th Oct. next, and it was prorogued accordingly.

TELEGRAPH TO THE LEADER.

Accident at Queenston.

Queenston (C. W.) Sep. 18.

While a schooner was taking a cargo of wheat from the store house of P. B. Clement at this place at noon, some boys were playing on the wheat, and one of them managed to get his feet in the hole in the centre of the floor, carrying the wheat to the schooner, was drawn down to his armpits by the draught of the wheat and prevented the wheat from running; and he was instantly covered and suffocated by the wheat. The boys name was Molligan, and he was an orphan. The body was recovered after an hour's work, but life was ex-

From the Fishing Grounds.

Boston, Sept. 10.

Three vessels have arrived from the fishing grounds. All was quiet. The Captains report that they had not been boarded by any of the British fleet, nor had they seen any of them.

From New York.

New York, Sep. 10.

Advices from Maricaibo to August 25th have been received. The revolutionary party had abandoned the war—troops were disbanded and vessels taken for war service had been given up to owners.

The steamship *Hermann* sailed to-day for Southampton and Bremen. She takes out $150,000 in specie and 65 passengers.

The U. S. mail steamer *Illinois*, from Aspinwall, is coming up the Bay.

From Cincinnati.

Cincinnati, Sept. 10.

A watchman and backman have been arrested to-day on a charge of kidnapping three mulatto women.

Hopes are entertained that John Hall, who was shot by Dr. Ames will recover.

Railway Accident.

Philadelphia, Sept. 10.

The New York train due here last night was thrown off the track near Beverly, the brakeman was instantly killed, the engineer was somewhat bruised, no passengers injured. The accident was caused by a piece of rail being placed near one of the sleepers.

New York.—The nett proceeds of the Crystal Palace, for the benefit of the New Orleans sufferers, amounts to $1,118.

The Woman's Rights Convention adjourned last night *sine die* it broke up in a row!

A small steamer running from this city to the Sound, exploded this morning.—None, however, were killed but several were injured, including the wife of Mr. Wolfe, of Chicago.

Washington, Sept. 7.

The Cabinet had a long session to day. Mr. Walker was at the White House all day.

Aquittal of Sneed, alias Watson.

Buffalo, Sept. 8

Patrick Sneed, arrested at Niagara Falls some time since, charged with committing a murder in Savannah Ga., in 1819, was brought up on a writ of *habeas corpus*, yesterday and the motion argued. In the testimony it became apparent that there was a conspiracy to take Sneed, who it seems is a fugitive from Slavery and not from justice, to Savannah. A lengthy decision was given this morning by Judge Shelvan who ordered the discharge of Sneed, and he is now in Canada.

Cincinatti. Sept. 8

Dr. Ames who shot Mr. Hall gave bail in $25,000. The motion for a new trial in the case of Findley was argued and granted.

New Orleans, Sept. 4

The number of deaths from yellow fever to-day was 85.

There is much fever along the River.

On eday later. The number of deaths from fever to day is 72; at Mobile 33.

Perilous Encounter with a Shark.—On the 29th of April, while five young soldiers, stationed at Corfu, were sailing along at a rapid rate, the boat in which they were, received a sudden shock, as if it had run upon a rock, which nearly capsized her. One of the soldiers having looked over the side, perceived a large shark swimming close to the boat, but it disappeared on his throwing a bottle at it. A number of porpoises were also about, and one of these was harpooned by a soldier named Flowers, son of Mr. Flowers, chimney sweeper, Theatre street, Warwick.—On being struck, the porpoise immediately dived, and the line being entangled round the arm of a soldier named Hanson, he was dragged into the water. Flowers seeing Hanson about thirty yards from the boat making for a rock, turned the boat in that direction and nearly overtook him, but, when within about six yards of him, one of his companions cried out that there was a shark going towards Hanson. Flowers seized a knife which stuck in the side of the boat, plunged head first into the water, and diving underneath the shark, turned himself on his back, and thrust the knife into the belly of the monster in several places: but it was of little use, the shark having seized upon Hanson, and taking his leg off near the knee, Flowers then endeavoured to get his comrade on his back, but both of them were nearly exhausted. He succeeded, however, in getting him into the boat, and bound up the wound with his shirt. When they reached the hospital their unfortunate comrade was nearly dead from exhaustion, but after a short time recovered. While on their way they captured the wounded shark and towed it on shore. It weighed 234 pounds, and when opened, the leg was found in its throat, the bone mangled to bits. The body of the shark has been placed in the Sailor's Home at Corfu.

Amongst nine papers published in the the Counties of Wellington, Waterloo and Grey, there is only one on the Conservative side in Politics. This is an age of progress, and Vansittartism is on the increase. Waterloo is the only County of the trio that countenances "old fogyism" in its press.—*Backwoodsman.*

Lola Montez has quarrelled with her new husband, because he was jealous of a violinist from whom she "had received some polite attentions." The husband raised a row and was kicked out of the house.

WEST INDIES.

The Royal Mail Steam-ship Parana arrived at Southampton on Wednesday with the West India and Pacific mails.

At St. Thomas the fever had nearly disappeared.

From Honduras we learn that the reports of the failure of the cochineal crop are confirmed.

Hostilities hac commenced between the Republic of Guatemala and the province of Honduras, and fighting was going on near Chiquimula.

In consequence of the heavy rains throughout the whole of the Bay of Honduras, it was feared that mahogany merchants will not get out more than one-third of their cutting this season.

Our advices from Jamacia are to the 27th ult. The intelligence conveyed by the Parana, which left this country on the 2nd of July, was most favourably received throughout the colonies generally. The speech of the Duke of Newcastle was published in extenso in all the Kingston journals. The papers opposed to the Government were loud in their congratulations on the event of Sir Charles Grey's recall being decided upon. The arrival of he new Governor, Mr. Barkley, was anxiously called for, and the public anticipated that an end would be put to existing difficulties when he arrived.—According to a calculation made by the "Morning Journal," the organ of Sir Chas. Grey, 160 prisoners had up to the latest date been liberated without the slightest cause, inasmuch as the contractors generally were willing, nay anxious to continue their supplies on credit. Stronger language than that employed in condemnation of the conduct on the part of the Government has never, perhaps, been used by the island press, and but one paper in the whole country attempts to defend the course pursued. There is no general news from the island. The all-engrossing topic was the deadlock, and nothing in respect to it had transpired. The heat was very great, and rain much wanted; but the yellow fever was fast subsiding.

Accounts from Tobago state that a mutiny had occurred among the prisoners in the gaol, and a destructive fire has occurred in Scarborough; both were suppressed, but the later did damage to the extent of $6000. At Trinidad the crop was entirely finished, and heavy rains had fallen. Yellow fever was still very prevalent, especially at San Fernando. Lord Harris was recovering from his severe attack of the malady. Two ships were about to sail to the East Indies with 700 return Coolies. The important work of supplying Port of Spain with water from the river Maravel had been completed to the great satisfaction of the inhabitants.

Barbadoes was generally very healthy.—Ships were loading for England with the last of the crop. Antigua was sickly.

COMPLIMENT TO AMERICA.

The following encomium upon the conduct of Captain Ingraham, in the case of Kosta, the Hungarian refugee, and aid-de-camp of Kossuth, we find credited to the London *Morning Advertiser:*

When the Austrian Consul, in contempt of all laws and in defiance of all decency, hired notorious ruffians to seize M. Kosta in a public cafe, and transport him on board of an Austrian brig then lying in the port of Smyrna, he thought perhaps, he had only Englishmen to deal with. He recollected the insults and the injuries that his government had heaped upon this country. He knew the impunity with which British subjects may be sabered, plundered and imprisoned. Fortunately the aid-de-camp of Kossuth was possessed of an American passport.

An American corvette, the St. Louis, entered the harbor, or lay in it. Informed of the facts, the captain boarded the Austrian brig. He insisted on seeing the prisoner, would take no refusal, and would listen to no subterfuges. M. Kosta was produced.—Bleeding, stunned, he could give no explanation and maintain no claim. The American commander was obliged to leave him till accurate information was procurable.—But he warned the Austrian not to weigh his anchor, and put himself in a position to prevent a flight. The passport was found, and the captain of the St. Louis re-demanded M. Kosta. He armed his boats, cleared his decks, and showed he could act as well as talk. M. Kosta was set free, is now in the charge of the Consul of France, and is saved from the gibbet of the friend of Aberdeen and "young hope of his country."

We have something to say and something to ask. We say what all see, that America can, and that she will protect her citizens and her guests. She has no standing army—she has scarcely a navy, but her flag is safe in every sea, and the name of "American" and the passport of America is a warrant from affront and outrage. Unarmed, unharmed, she takes her place among the nations, and is treated with respect and awe. We saw this in the Hungarian war, when Daniel Webster made the Austrian Government abjectly eat the leek. We see it again now. The reason is plain. America represents that principally. American statesmen speak and write ciple of liberty that makes every people her for the interest of a country, not a class. The act of this American captain is the theme of England, of Germany and France. Their journals express what the people feel. Even the Charivari jests no more, but shouts "Long live America."

The refugees, the Pariahs, the maligned of Europe, are living men once more. America claims these waifs of liberty and offers them the safeguard of her flag. The hulks of Austria, motionless beneath the pointed cannon of America, render up their victims. The noble conduct of her marine at Smyrna is a great fact in history. The news of the demand of Kosta by her Minister at Constantinople sets the seal upon her magnanimity. March forward, Young America, in humanity's cause, and shout that rallying shout—"Go ahead!" which makes every heart beat high!

PROGRAMME OF THE PROVINCIAL EXHIBITION,

TO BE HELD AT HAMILTON, OCTOBER 4TH TO 7TH, 1853.

From the Agriculturist.

As this great annual event is near at band and knowing the interest which our readers and the public generally feel in the undertaking, it may serve a useful purpose to sketch in regular order, the principal outlines of the proceedings of the Show week.

The site chosen for the Exhibition, is precisely fitted for the purpose, and the Local Committee are making the most energetic preparations for completing the buildings and arrangements in a satisfactory manner.

The payment of a Dollar constitutes a person a member of the Association, to whom a badge is presented, which will admit him free to the Exhibition, and to enter, without charge, whatever Stock or articles he may desire for competition.

Member's badges are not transferable and will admit *only the purchaser.* None but members (except Ladies and Foreigners) can exhibit for premiums.

Blood horses and Thorough-bred Cattle must be entered, and have their full pedigrees properly attested, and sent to the Secretary, at the office of the Board of Agriculture in Toronto, not later than Saturday, Sept. 24. No animals will be allowed to compete as *pure breed* unless they possess regular stud or Herd Book pedigrees, or satisfactory evidence is produced that they are directly descended from such stock.

Persons making entries by letter must enclose a dollar for membership, and no entries can be received by the Secretary in Toronto later than Saturday, October 1st, after which the books will be removed to Hamilton.

Monday and Tuesday, Oct. 3rd and 4th, will be devoted to the entering and arranging of Stock and articles for exhibition, on the Show Grounds. Entries must be completed by eight o'clock on Tuesday evening. All entries made on Wednesday morning before nine o'clock will be subjected to a charge of 5s. each. After that hour the books will *finally close* and whatever may subsequently arrive can only be admitted to compete for *discretionary* premiums.

The Judges will enter upon their duties early on Wednesday morning, and Members will be admitted to the grounds at 2 o'clock, p. m.

The Public, or non-Members, will be admitted during the whole of Thursday and Friday; tickets, 7½d for each admission, can be obtained at the Treasurer's office, where also members' badges may be had.

It is intended to hold Public Meetings in the City Hall, during the evenings of Wednesday and Thursday, for addresses and discussions on subjects affecting the agricultural and commercial interests of Canada.

The Annual meeting of the directors of the Association will be held in the Committee Room on the Grounds, on Friday, at 10 o'clock, a. m.

We take this opportunity of reminding the officers of County Societies that according to the present Agricultural Act (16 Vic. cap. 11, sec. 50), the Directors of the Provincial Association consist of the officers appointed by the Annual Meeting thereof, the ex-presidents, the Members of the Board of Agriculture, and the Presidents and Vice Presidents of County Societies, or any two members whom a County Society may have appointed Directors, instead of its president and Vice-President. Persons thus qualified have the sole right of voting at the Annual Meeting to be held during the show week.

The President's Address will be delivered on the grounds on Friday at 2 o'clock, after which the awards of the judges will be declared.

Every exertion will be made for the prompt payment of the Premiums, especially to parties coming from a distance.

A separate List of Premiums is prepared for foreigners, whose articles will pass through the Custom House *duty free,* unless they are actually sold.

Delegates, Judges and Members of the Press, are particularly requested to report themselves at the Secretary's office on their arrival.

We wish the public, particularly our fellow subjects in the Lower Province, to understand that the Exhibition is equally open to all Canada.

The Local Committee have made arrangements with Railroad and Steamboat Proprietors for carrying visitors, stock, &c., to and from the Exhibition, during the show week, at the usual reduced rates. The Hotel and Boarding-House keepers in Hamilton, have agreed not to advance their ordinary rate of charges,—which will vary from 5s. to 7s. 6d. per day, for meals and lodging. Hamilton, with its immediate neighborhood is very favorably situated for accommodating the vast numbers, which it is confidently expected the approaching occasion will call together. There are some engineering works in the vicinity of this thriving city alone worth the expense of a long journey to see, while the country for many miles around is not exceeded for picturesque beauty and agricultural advancement by any equally extensive area on the North American continent.

In addition to the numerous prizes offered by the Association, amounting in the aggregate to about £1,500:—The President, Wm. Matthie, Esq., offers a handsome sum of £50 for particular prizes; while the Canada Company continue their usual liberal support, and the Ex-President, T. C. Street, Esq., M. P. P., again offers a handsome prize for a Stud Horse. Nor must we omit to notice the Premium for a Draining Tile Machine, by his Excellency the Governor General.

All that is required to ensure another glorious display of the results of Canadian skill and industry is the prompt and hearty co-operation of the people. And we shall be much mistaken, as well as deeply mortified, if amidst our general prosperity, in an age and on a continent, on both of which are so deeply marked by the sign of progress, the approaching Exhibition at Hamilton should prove in any way unworthy of our highly favored country; of the intelligence, energy and character.

Persons desirous of farther information may obtain Premium lists containing regulations, &c., by applying to the Secretary of the Board of Agriculture in Toronto, or to Nehemiah Ford, Esq., Secretary of the Local Committee, Hamilton.

DR. JOHN FORBES KNIGHTED.

It will no doubt give our readers in this district much pleasure to learn that, at a Court held at Buckingham Palace on Monday the 8th inst., the Queen was pleased to confer the honour of Knighthood on our former townsman, John Forbes, Esq., M. D., D. C. L., and F. R. S.

The people in this his native county have long contemplated with pleasure the brilliant career of this distinguished physician, as well as that of his friend, Sir James Clark, Bart., also a native of this county. Both these gentlemen now so highly honored, and both in such influential and prominent positions—Sir James being Physician to the Queen, and Sir John being Physician to Household and also Physician Extraordinary to Prince Albert—have been all their lives nearly associated.

Dr. John Forbes—now Sir John Forbes—was born at Cuttlebrae, in the Enzie, in this country, but removed with his parents at an early age to Dytach, in Fordyce, a farm adjoining that of Kilnhillock, on which Sir James Clark was born." Both being about the same age, they received their education together under the late much respected Mr. Cruikshank, rector of the Fordyce Academy. From their school-boy union a close intimacy sprang up between the two gentlemen, which has been maintained throughout every succeeding year of their lives. Leaving Fordyce, they both prosecuted their studies together at Aberdeen, and both returned to Banff as students of medicine under the late Dr. Williamson. Afteawards—still together—they went the round of the Medical Schools of Edinburgh, at the University of which both took their degrees with high honours.—Both subsequently entered the Navy, as did also, we may remark, at the same time their intimate friend and fellow student, Dr Garden Milne of Banff. Leaving the navy Dr. Clark obtained eminent practice at Rome, whence his great talents attracted the notice of Her Majesty, and led to his present high position as medical adviser of the Queen, and his appointment to a Baronetcy, which latter honour he attained in 1837.

On Dr. Forbes leaving the Navy at the same time as his friend, he practised his profession first at Penzance, next at Chichester, and thereafter removed to London. Previous to his going to the metropolis, Dr. Forbes had acquired considerable celebrity as a medical writer, and has since added greatly to his fame in this respect. On this subject, we cannot do better than quote the following passage from the "Medical Times" of Saturday last, which, in an article referring to the knighthood of Dr. Forbes, after pointing out that Government rewards, either in titles or in pensions, are rarely conferred on medical men, thus speaks of the new knight:

"It is scarcely necessary to say that the honour conferred upon Sir John Forbes by the Queen will be considered as a compliment to the whole medical profession. Assuredly her Majesty could not have selected one of its members more deserving of rank. No physician of the present day has done so much for medical literature as Dr. Forbes. He was the first to make the profession in this country fully acquainted, by his admirable Translation and Notes, with the works of Avenbrugger and Laennec,—works which may be said truly to form a great era in the progress of medical science. Dr. Forbes was also the active editor of the Cyclopædia of Practical Medicine the most valuable work of the kind in our language. But it was as editor of the *British and Foreign Medical Review* that the labors of Dr. Forbes deserve peculiar notice. He conducted that Review for twelve years, with an ability, honesty, and independence for which it would be difficult or impossible to find a parallel. By the firm, just, and dignified character he imparted to that Journal, he did inestimable service in raising the character of medical literature, not only in Great Britain, but wherever the influence of our language is felt. That Review will remain a lasting monument of the benefits conferred upon the medical profession, long after he has passed away; while his other literary works, the "Physician's Holiday," and the "Memorandum's made in Ireland, will show that he was qualified to shine as well in general as in medical literature. The clear exposer of the impostures of the mesmerists, and of the absurd follies of the Homœopathists,—the active supporter of the Consumption Hospital, Idiot Asylum, Governesses' Institution,—indeed, of all deserving medical and benevolent schemes, he has long since earned his laurels. The esteem and affectionate regard which his sterling, unaffected, disinterested character has won for him from an unusually large circle of friends, both in and out of the Profession, insure him the general wish for a long and happy life to enjoy his new rank, and to honour it by his name.

These two gentlemen have lately given a pleasing and substantial proof of their regard for the scene of their boyhood, in the handsome present of a library for the School of Fordyce, containing between 100 and 500 volumes.—*Banffshire Journal.*

The St. Catherines "Journal says that horse stealing is now very prevalent in the neighborhood of Thorold.

HURON SIGNAL.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 1853

RAILWAY DIFFICULTIES.

The people of Hamilton and along the line of the Great Western have lately been somewhat excited by the propositions of the Grand Trunk Company. The line of the latter Company as our readers are aware, extends from Guelph to Port Sarnia. The Great Western Company have also the privelege of extending their road, from London to Port Sarnia and while the Grand Trunk wishes the Great Western to forego its extension, the Great western has become jealous of its rights and looks upon the Grand Trunk extension from Guelph to Sarnia as a dangerous competing line, and would recommend a new route, to Saugeen or Owen Sound in preference. The advocates of the Great Western are also opposed to amalgamation—they are well aware of the superior advantages of their line over that of the Grand Trunk with its termination at Port Sarnia. The Grand Trunk appears to be desirous of bringing about this amalgamation, and while its advocates magnify the danger which may result from competition, the Great Western party, portray the hideousness of a monster monopoly. We do not see that the Great Western will have any difficulty in maintaining its independent existence, for whatever route the so called Grand Trunk line may adopt, the Great Western must ever constitute the Western termination of the Southern Main Trunk line of Railway in Canada West, although of course, in the future, we may be entertained with other lines traversing our territory to the north of the lakes indefinitely towards the Pacific, of which the leading one may claim affinity to the Canadian *Grand* Trunk line.

It is very apparent that these lines are too nearly parallel to be quite as profitable to the respective companies as might be desired, but there is no doubt the public generally will be benefitted by them. The Great Western was very jealous of the Buffalo and Brantford Company, and especially so, of their extension to Goderich, regarding the latter as detrimental to their monopoly of the American trade. But now a new opponent is in the field which promises not only to take a further share of the American, but also to a considerable extent, of the local traffic. This is no doubt very galling to the Great Western, yet we believe by judicious mutual arrangements both lines may be profitably worked. We hope these differences may be settled with the least possible injury to either of the companies, and with a careful eye to the requirements of the public.

The prosperity of the Buffalo, Brantford and Goderich line cannot be marred by any arrangements that may be determined upon by the rival companies and will receive tribute from the one at Stratford and the other at Paris. The following resolutions passed at a late public meeting in Hamilton will serve to show the state of feeling in that quarter.

"That in the opinion of this meeting, the Stockholders and Directors of the Great Western Railway Company will best consult the interest of this Province, as well as their own self evident advantage by declining to enter into any amalgamation with the Grand Trunk Railway, and resolutely maintaining their own independence."

"That in the opinion of this meeting, the route of the Great Western Railroad is so far superior to any other projected in Canada, that its prospects can only be injured by amalgamation with any other line."

"That this meeting, while resisting Railway monopoly, looks with much satisfaction upon the recorded opinion of so eminent authority as Mr. Robert Stephenson, in deprecating the evils of Railway competition, the truth of which he may be able to advise the adoption of a policy in regard to the competition now threatened by the carrying of the Grand Trunk line from Guelph to Sarnia, which runs the whole way parallel to the previous chartered Great Western Railway, instead of running North West to Saugeen to Owen Sound, a magnificent line of communication still unoccupied and which would complete a Railway system for Canada West, such as Mr. Stephenson has foreshadowed while not interfering with any existing or chartered line of Railway.

TOWN LOTS.

The list of Town Lots for sale here at the Agency of the Canada Company, by Auction on the 14th Oct., has been published. We do not observe among those offered for sale any of the lots already leased even where the terms of the lease have been unfulfilled.

We find that in many of the blocks yet open, the Company offer only every alternate lot, retaining the others probably for sale at another favorable opportunity. This we conceive will have an injurious tendency at the sale, as many of the lots so reserved are in such situations as to sell well only for private residences, in blocks of two or four together.

There are none of the lots on the harbor flat on the list and but few or any choice business locations are offered, indeed but few of such now remain in the hands of the Company. The terms are cash down or the ten year lease as usual, with the exception that no building clause will be inserted.

THE FATE OF THE BY-LAWS.

We are not yet in possession of very full or correct information as to the votes on the Gravel Road and Court House By-Laws. But from what we have gleaned we are of the opinion that they have been rejected.—This is nearly certain as regards the Gravel Roads. The following municipalities, as we are informed, voted for the Gravel Road By-Law:—Goderich Town, Hay, Stephen, Biddulph and McGillivray, 5. Against it Goderich Township, Tuckersmith, Stanley, McKillop, Hullett, Colborne, Ashfield, Wawanosh, Kincardine, 9. Usborne not known.

Mr. Keefer's Report.—This able and voluminous report has come to hand. It relates to the St. Lawrence Railway Bridge. A vast amount of labour must have been required to produce this comprehensive work, which certainly reflects the greatest credit on the skill and energy of the author. The plans which accompany the report are very elaborate. The length of the bridge, the report says, will require to be about 7000 feet, and the whole will rest upon abutments and piers of substantial masonry and is estimated to cost about £400,000 currency.

NEW POSTAL ARRANGEMENTS.

We are glad to find that the Hon. M. Cameron, the new Postmaster General, has entered upon his duties with spirit. We believe him to be every way well adapted for the office and that he will introduce many important practical improvements into the arrangements of that department while invested with its control. We cut the following from a contemporary in support of our views:—

The *State of Maine* of yesterday says that the Hon. Malcolm Cameron, Postmaster General of Canada, and the Hon. Joseph Howe, Postmaster General of New Brunswick, have just entered in an arrangement for a regular mail from Montreal to St. John, via Portland, by the "Admiral" and "Eastern City," so that Montreal and Quebec will be in receipt of their mails from St. John and the Lower Provinces [illegible] *days* time, instead of the eight or ten days required by the land route by Temiscouata.

THE HURON JUDGESHIP.

"The report of the Commissioner appointed to enquire into the conduct of Judge Acland is in the hands of the Government. A decision is shortly expected.—*Examiner.*

"*Time for it,*" as Phatrick says the moon! It is now about seven months since Mr. the Commission was appointed. Freemen, of this city, who is generally allowed to be a tolerable judge of matters, attended on the Commission during the week at Goderich after the inquiry was commenced, and on his return he gave it as his opinion, that the case, that the were so numerous, and so [illegible] appointment of a commission [illegible]