

IMPORTANT NOTICE.

MY IMMENSE STOCK
—OF—
DRY GOODS
IS NOW
Open for Inspection.

On account of being delayed in opening until the season is so far advanced, I had but my stock is much too large in all kinds of seasonable goods, consequently I will commence selling at once all such lines, at about

WHOLESALE COST.

Call and judge for yourselves.

G. A. SMITH,
McQuillan's Block,
Upper Wyndham Street, Guelph
Guelph, Nov. 10th, 1874 dw

JOHN MCOREA,
Produce Commission Merchant,
and Insurance Agency.
Office—Bank of Commerce Buildings,
Guelph, July 28th, 1874. dom

ROBE'S
BILLIARD HALL,
In the Queen's Hotel, Guelph, opposite the Market.
The room has just been refitted in splendid style, the tables reduced in size, and everything done to make it a first-class Billiard Hall.
Guelph, Nov. 3rd, 1873. d

ANDERSON'S
DOMINION SALOON.
The undersigned begs to inform the Public that he has leased the above Saloon, opposite the Market House.
From his long experience in business he hopes to merit a share of the trade.
Dances at all hours. Oyster and game suppers got up on short notice.
H. M. ANDERSON.
Guelph, Jan. 13th, 1874. dtf

M. P. DELOUCHE,
WIRE WORKER,
Pearl street, off King street. Every description of wire work made to order at the lowest terms. Any orders left at W. H. Murray's seed store, Market Square, or at H. Murray's fruit depot, Wyndham street, will be cheerfully received and promptly attended to. Terms strictly cash.
Guelph, June 13th, 1874. dtf

WALBOND'S
CONFECTIONERY STORE,
Next to Petrie's Drug Store.
Choice Confectionery,
Hot Tea, Coffee, and Luncheon
At all hours.
SARNS of all kinds constantly on hand. Weddings supplied on short notice.
Guelph, July 29, 1874. a

AMERICAN
HOTEL CAB,
The subscriber begs to intimate to the public that his new cab attends all trains at stations, and will convey passengers to any part of the town.
Pleasure or other parties hiring the Cab by the hour can have it at very reasonable terms by applying at the hotel.
THOMAS ELLIS,
Proprietor
Guelph, Jan. 7, 1874. dtf

W. M. FOSTER, L.D.S.,
Surgeon Dentist, Guelph.
Office over E. Harvey & Co's Drug Store, Corner of Wyndham & Macdonnell-st., Guelph.
The constant use of laughing gas administered for the extraction of teeth without pain, which is perfectly safe and reliable.
References kindly permitted to Dr. Herod, McGuire, Keating, Cowan, and McGregor, Guelph.

R. Campbell, L.D.S.
Having recovered from his recent illness, is again prepared to attend to the wants of all who may require his services.
Office at the old stand, Wyndham street, Guelph.

PARKER'S HOTEL,
—DIRECTLY—
OPPOSITE THE MARKET, GUELPH.
First-class accommodation for travellers. Commodious stabling and an attentive staff.
Best Liquors and Cigars at the bar.
Has just fitted up a room where Oysters will be served up at all hours, in the most stylish.
Fresh Salmon Lobsters and Sardines.

RED MILL
Flour and Feed Store,
Wyndham Street, Guelph.
Family and Pastry Flour, and all kinds of Feed delivered in any part of the Town.
K. W. ROBERTSON,
Guelph, Sept. 1, 1874. dtf

BERKSHIRE BOAR JOHN A.
The subscriber begs to notify the breeders of swine that he has purchased the above boar, imported from England by George Roach, Esq., of Hamilton, which will serve as a standard. Terms, \$10, cash. Postage—John A. was first champion, out of Ireland, by J. D. De Gooch, and was champion of B. Hall, by J. M. Whittier.
J. A. BARKER,
Shed street, Guelph, Proprietor,
Guelph, Nov. 13, 1874. dtf

New Advertisements.

TO LET.—Three comfortable rooms. Apply to John C. Ross, near the North Ward School. dtf

WANTED.—A servant girl.—Apply to Mrs. Bischo, Woolwich Street, Guelph. dtf

WANTED, a smart active boy to deliver the morning papers and learn the Book and Stationery business. Apply at J. Anderson's Bookstore. dtf

HOT AIR FURNACE.—For sale, new—cost furnace having been substituted. This may be had on reasonable terms. A. Lemon, Guelph, Sept. 8, 1874. dtf

HOUSE TO LET.—On the corner of Brampton Road and Mitchell Street, a first-class stone dwelling, containing nine rooms, with pantries, wood shed, well, cistern, and all other conveniences.—For particulars, apply to E. W. McGuire, M.D., Norfolk Street, Guelph. dtf

LITERARY CLASSES AND OTHERS.—For sale, six volumes of Cassell's Popular Education, containing over 1,000 illustrations, strongly bound. Price \$10. To be seen at the Mercury Office. dtf

TENDERS.
Parties desirous of tendering for seating and completing the Baptist Chapel, Guelph, may see the plans and specifications, and obtain full information at my office. Sealed tenders will be received by me up to 4 p.m. on Monday, the 14th inst. The Building Committee do not bind themselves to accept the lowest or any tender.
VICTOR STEWART,
Architect, Brownlow Buildings, Guelph, 8th Dec. 1874. dtf

POSTPONEMENT.
The time for receiving Tenders for seating &c., the Baptist Chapel, is extended until 4 p.m., on Wednesday, the 16th inst.
VICTOR STEWART, Architect, Guelph, 14th Dec. 1874. dtf

XMAS and NEW YEAR'S GOODS.

WE REMIND
"SANTA CLAUS"
That our stock of Goods suitable for the holiday season is full

Rare Excellence,
Cheapness,
and Variety.

A Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year
We would invite their attention to

Bargains in Hardware.
To see is to buy at the popular hardware establishment of

John M. Bond & Co.
Wyndham Street, Guelph.
Guelph, December, 1874. dtf

CRAWFORD'S Jewellery
Stock is **SELLING OFF**
QUICK. Parties wishing **Watches, Clocks, or Jewellery,** will save money by calling at his Store, next the Post Office.

LECTURES.
LECTURES.

Unparalleled in Metaphysical and Physical Research, by Prof. EVANS and EGAN, Physicists.
At the Town Hall, on Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, and Saturday Evenings, Dec. 16th, 17th, 18th and 19th.

Subjects: Popular Phrenology
and hundreds upon hundreds of entirely new scientific facts added thereto, by Prof. Evans, the oldest Phrenologist, probably on the continent of America, and the only one whose researches have opened up, perhaps, the whole law of Mind, and Operations of the Brain.
Introductory Lecture, Wednesday Evening—FREE.
To subsequent Lectures, admission 25c. Tickets for the Course, 50c. each.
Guelph, Dec. 12, 1874. dtf

RENAULT & Co.
COGNAC
CELEBRATED BRANDIES
(The oldest Bottlers in France.)
Hear what Dr. Sheridan Muspratt, F.R.S.E., M.R.I.A., F.G.S., says: "Fine Pale Cognac—Renault's or Hennessy's—is often prescribed for invalids with great success."
To be had of all grocers and Italian wine-houses.
Guelph, Nov. 17, 1874. dtf

NEW
Machine Shop.
The subscriber having opened a machine shop in town, is prepared to do

ALL KINDS OF JOBBING
In a first-class manner.
Shafting, Pulleys, Hangers, Saw Arbours, etc., made to order.
Millwrighting and repairing engines, factory machinery, sewing machines, etc., promptly attended to and a good job guaranteed.
Shop near the Eramosa Bridge, opposite the Wheel Factory.
Carpenters, Cabinet Makers and others can have the wood turning well done on short notice.
N. STOVEL,
Guelph, Nov. 17, 1874. dtf

BOOKBINDING.
MER HANTS and others requiring first-class LEADERS, JOURNALS, DAY or CASH BOOKS, of any size, need not send away to get them. CHAPMAN can produce first-class books, of any description, to order. All in a neat, durable and healthy and expeditious manner.
MAGAZINES, and all kinds of books bound in plain and fancy styles, at
CHAPMAN'S BINDERY,
CHAPMAN'S BUILDINGS, CORNER OF WYNDHAM AND ST. GEORGE'S STREETS, GUELPH.

Guelph Evening Mercury

WEDNESDAY EVENG., DEC. 16, 1874

The Municipal Elections.

MEETING OF WARD COMMITTEES.
The Ward Committees appointed to secure the election of Mr. Melvin and his friends will meet on Thursday night at the following places:—
South Ward Committee—Red Lion Hotel.
East Ward Committee—Parker's Hotel.
West Ward Committee—Ellis's Hotel.
North Ward Committee—Victoria Hotel.

On Friday night a GENERAL MEETING of all the Committees will be held at the Wellington Hotel at half past seven o'clock, when a full attendance is expected.

Town and County News

HIGH SCHOOL EXAMINATION.—This examination will take place on Friday next from 9 to 12 a.m., and from 1.30 to 4 p.m.

POSTPONEMENT.—On account of the Temperance meeting to be held in the Wesleyan Church on Thursday evening, the Literary Society's meeting has been postponed till Monday evening next.

The Committee of the Wesleyan Methodist S. S., have decided to hold their anniversary celebration on Monday evening 28th inst. The anniversary sermon will be preached on Sunday the 27th. For particulars see advertisement to-morrow.

THE GOLDEN LION.—This establishment, as usual, at this season of the year, is filled from cellar to garret with an immense and choice stock of Dry Goods, suitable for the old, the middle-aged and the young. Parties wishing to supply themselves with goods, rich and rare as well as durable, should not fail to visit the Golden Lion. Read advt.

THE ELORA SWINDLER.—About a year ago the Wesleyan Methodist congregation of Elora were victimized by a notorious swindler who thrust himself upon them as the Rev. Mr. Warren. As soon as his true character was discovered he took a sudden flight, leaving behind a number of friends whom he had misled. The man is now hunted from place to place in the United States by detectives, on charges of bigamy, forgery, and attempted murder. His real name is Copeland. Bishop Foster says of him "That he is one of the biggest scoundrels on this continent."

PUBLIC TEMPERANCE MEETING.—The meeting in Knox Church last night, was not so well attended as we had hoped to see considering the grave import of the question under discussion. Rev. Mr. Hogg presided. Suitable addresses were delivered by the Chairman Rev. Messrs. Hogg, of Guelph, Smith, of Woodbridge and D. Davidson. Messrs. J. Ryan and W. Wilkie also made short speeches. The meeting to-night will be held in the Knox Church, at 7.30 o'clock. The Chair to be occupied by Dr. Hogg will be half-past seven o'clock. Addresses will be delivered by ministers and other gentlemen of the Town.

PROVIDENTIAL ESCAPE.—On Tuesday evening, as Dr. O'Reilly, resident physician of the Hamilton City Hospital, was in company with his mother and sister, driving along James street in a cutter, one of the runners came in contact with a little mound and the vehicle tipped over. The occupants were thrown out, but the ladies had a miraculous escape, falling between the wheels of a large lorry passing along slowly at the time. The driver had the presence of mind to stop the horses, but not before one of the heavy wheels had come in contact with Mrs. O'Reilly's shoulder inflicting some bruises.

MAN "KNOW THYSELF."—A frog lecture will be given in the Town Hall this (Wednesday) evening, on the highly important subject "Popular Phrenology, and Prof. Evans' Solution of the Problem of Mind." As Prof. Evans and Egan have added to their lectures the results of their latest researches, we have no doubt that the people of Guelph will turn out in full strength to hear these talented gentlemen. This subject is not yet studied by the people enough, and as all are seeking happiness, this course of study shows man his deficiencies and enables him to correct them. These gentlemen are staying at Thorp's Hotel and will give written and oral examinations from 9 a.m. to 10 p.m. We predict a full house.

VICK'S FLORAL GUIDE FOR 1875.—The January number of this beautifully illustrated and standard work has been received. It contains over 100 pages, 600 engravings, and descriptions of more than 500 of the best flowers and vegetables. We notice on one of the fly-leaves an article on the grasshopper plague, in which Mr. Vick offers to receive subscriptions for the relief of the sufferers, and will add \$500 as his subscription to the sums thus collected. He also offers four floral premiums to amateurs. This useful and elegant work only costs 25 cents per year, is published quarterly, and the address is Jas. Vick, Rochester, N. Y.

CONCERT IN ACORN.—Prof. Matland gave a concert in Acorn on Tuesday evening, in Mathew's Hall. The audience was a good one, the singers acquitted themselves in an admirable manner, and the programme was nearly doubled before the evening's entertainment was over. Miss Gerie's singing was specially noted, and was loudly applauded, while Miss Annie McPherson's rendering of "Love's Childings" was so fine that a gentleman in the audience requested her to give him an encore "My Mother's Blessing." Mr. Matland's band gave great satisfaction, and his own and Mr. Bink's were in the highest order. Altogether the concert was a success in every respect, and the people of Acorn will be proud to say that they had an admirable evening of assistants in it. That place again, give them a bumper house.

Dr. Orton.
From the Globe.
If one of the sensations at Ottawa during the last session was occasioned by the dread of hearing a speech from Mr. Plumb on the Tariff and things in general, the job of the speaker was certainly by Dr. Orton's Committee to consider the grievances of the agricultural interests.

The subject, it is true, was not a new one to the House of Commons. It had been the object of much solemn trifling before at the hands of Mr. Francis Jones and other members, who had attempted to make a little political capital out of their self-assumed championship of the rights or wrongs of the agriculturists of Canada. And so harmless had been their futile efforts, so completely had it come to be looked on as a thing of course that somebody should set an Agricultural Committee a-going, and that with its appointment the House should hear the last of it, that the motion for such a Committee, when revived in the new Parliament, was granted without objection, though with a very slight opening by the Premier of its utter uselessness.

But, although everybody knew that Mr. Mackenzie was right, it was left for Dr. Orton, the new member for Centre Wellington, to make the whole thing ridiculous and the laughing-stock of the House and country. There is no lack of information about agriculture to be obtained inside or outside of the House of Commons. The question, too, was one quite independent of party distinctions or divisions. But the men who could have given some weight and authority to the deliberations of the Committee on the subject of agriculture were not to be found on Dr. Orton's Committee at all, and of the thirteen first nominated on the Committee ten were taken out of the little crowd on the Speaker's left, and only three from the great party represented by three-fourths of the whole House of Commons; and although no one will pretend to say that there is, in the Canadian Parliament, any want of interest in all that appertains to agriculture, although the great majority of members either are engaged in agriculture or represent agricultural constituencies, the affair was looked upon as so broad a farce that only with extreme difficulty could a majority of the Committee be got together in order to apply to the House to reduce the quorum.

Dr. Orton, even with this advantage, was found to be so rickety a condition that it had to be strengthened by another appeal to the House to add more names to the list, and the Committee was accordingly increased to twenty-one members, the quorum being raised to seven. Even with this enlargement, it was only by the almost frantic efforts of its Chairman a quorum was obtained for a few minutes at any time, to give validity to the proceedings. It was soon found out that the great agricultural interest of Canada, even when fostered by Dr. Orton, could not stand alone upon its own merits, and accordingly the Doctor and his friends applied to the Committee on Manufacturing Interests to take them in and help them out of the very ridiculous dilemma of having got a Committee appointed, and then finding nothing to sit upon. But the Manufacturing Interests Committee was then drawing near to the completion of its labours; it had accumulated a large amount of oral and documentary evidence, and really found it difficult to do anything more. It, therefore, politely declined to take Agriculture and the Agricultural Committee of doctors and lawyers under its protection, and poor Dr. Orton was left shivering in the cold, with nothing to do and not knowing how to do it.

At last a wonderful thought struck him. Two years before an abortive effort of the same kind had been made by Mr. Francis Jones, assisted by one Mr. John McLean as clerk or secretary. Nothing had come of the affair except expense to the country and a little employment to John McLean, who had, it seems, retained the records of its proceedings, and stood alone upon its own merits, and accordingly the Doctor and his friends applied to the Committee on Manufacturing Interests to take them in and help them out of the very ridiculous dilemma of having got a Committee appointed, and then finding nothing to sit upon. But the Manufacturing Interests Committee was then drawing near to the completion of its labours; it had accumulated a large amount of oral and documentary evidence, and really found it difficult to do anything more. It, therefore, politely declined to take Agriculture and the Agricultural Committee of doctors and lawyers under its protection, and poor Dr. Orton was left shivering in the cold, with nothing to do and not knowing how to do it.

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keep the queer genius they elected last January at home, and send some one a good deal less middle-headed, if not quite so ambitious, to represent them at Ottawa.

Agricultural College Committee.

This Committee met again this morning at half-past ten.

Mr. Wm. Johnston was examined and said he was rector at present of the College, and was acting as Principal. He was a graduate of Toronto University and had previously been engaged in teaching for about six years. There were at present about 30 students, and there had been applications for admission for about twenty more. One student had gone away since witness had been appointed, because his parents wanted him at home. He then gave in detail the daily routine of the students' work. They had at the institution a farm foreman, a live stock foreman, a gardener and a carpenter. In the house there was a matron and four servants. The students receive their instruction on the farm under foremen.

In reply to Mr. Cameron, the witness said that none of the women servants were the same as when he went there, except the matron; the gardener and the carpenter had been discharged; the gardener had been proved a thief; he stole a pig (laughter); the gardener and two of the hired men killed the pig by chasing it on a Sunday, and then went through the process of butchering it, after which they appropriated it. The witness put in a written confession of the gardener that, after killing the pig in the manner stated, he and the other men took it into a root-house, cleaned it, and divided it among them, he (the gardener) giving for his share, a hind quarter, at night. The investigation with regard to the theft took place the next day after it occurred. Witness reported the theft to Mr. McKellar, and he came up and dismissed the gardener. He had dismissed two of the female servants which he believed Mr. McCandless appointed. One was the laundress and the other a little girl. The reason the laundress was dismissed was that she asked one of the students to go into her room at night.

Mr. Col. T. C. Scoble, was next examined, and said he was sent to take charge of the College on the 16th July. Mr. McCandless expressed great gratification at seeing him (Col. Scoble) there, and said he was heartily glad to get rid of the place; the whole place seemed disorganized; there was a spirit of insubordination manifest among the students; the household departments were disorganized, and Mr. McCandless seemed to be quarrelling with everybody. Witness assembled all the pupils and all the servants, and told them he had dismissed two of the female servants, and that he did not want to hear anything of the past; he did not want to have any tales brought him now. Mr. McCandless was in the habit of speaking to him (Col. Scoble) very disrespectfully of Mr. McKellar, calling him "Archie," and "the old man." McCandless also told him, substantially, what had since been alleged with regard to Mr. McKellar and Mrs. Mercer, and further, that he had conducted from Mr. McKellar which would drive him out of the Ministry, and that the Government treated him as he thought they should, he was prepared to produce them. He also said that he had been approached by members of the Opposition, who had offered him one of the finest constituencies in the country if he would accept of it. (Applause.) He preferred charges of general incompetency against Mr. Sturton. When witness first went there Mr. McCandless warned him against Mrs. Petrie, and said she was an immoral woman; he (Mr. McCandless) said that he would receive nothing less than three years' salary if he was turned out of the institution, and that if the Government did not treat him liberally he would drag "old Archie" out with him.

Ontario Legislature.

Dec. 15.
A considerable amount of routine business was transacted, including the consideration of the Redistribution Bill in Committee of the whole, after which Mr. Bethune moved the second reading of his Bill to provide for compulsory voting. He did not intend to press the matter at this late stage of the session. Col. Hignbottom, M.P., moved the principle of the Bill.

After a lengthy discussion on the subject, it was moved that the order for going into committee on the Bill be discharged, which was carried.

Sabbath School Social.

The annual social of St. Andrew's Church Sabbath School was held in the new spacious school house attached to the church, on Tuesday evening. There was a very large attendance of children as well as parents and others interested in the work. Col. Hignbottom, M.P., presided at the chair, and ably discharged its duties. After prayer by the Pastor, Rev. Dr. Hogg, and singing a hymn, Mr. James Massie, the Superintendent, gave a report of the progress and present condition of the school. For some time after the church was bare, there was only an attendance of from twenty to thirty scholars, now the number on the roll exceeds 200, and the average attendance 136. The old library was given to schools in the northern Townships, and a new one, comprising 520 volumes was bought this year. The school sustains an orphan in India, is free of debt, has a new splendid school room, and is in a very flourishing condition. The programme was then gone through. Recitations were given by Ellen Allan, Maggie Spalding, George Mitchell, Harriet Allan and Hattie Pike, and hymns were sung by Annie Roper and Mary Roper, all which were well done, and received great applause from the young folks. Several hymns were also sung by the whole school in capital style, and the infant class did wonders in singing their little pieces. Interesting and suitable addresses were given by Rev. Messrs. Wardrop and Torrance, and at the close the teachers distributed cakes, fruit and apples to the scholars, which were greatly relished. The proceedings closed with prayer by Rev. Mr. Smith, and the meeting dispersed after having spent a most enjoyable and pleasant evening.

Halton Reform Convention.

Milton, Dec. 15.
Owing to the late hour at which the delegates arrived, the Convention did not organize until a quarter past twelve. There were 77 delegates present. The chair was occupied by Dr. Robertson, president of the Reform Association, and Mr. G. Wilson acted as secretary. After all the credentials of the delegates had been handed in, the Convention proceeded to the nomination of candidates, and selected Mr. John White, late M.P., and Mr. McCraney, of Oakville. The several members of the Convention then discussed the claims of the gentlemen named, prior to making a choice. The meeting was very harmonious, every person present seemed to have the interest of the party and the welfare of the country at heart.

The several members of the Convention having spoken, each being confined to five minutes' time, a vote was taken, when the President declared Mr. McCraney had a majority. The vote was subsequently made unanimous. Mr. White then entered the room, and was received with enthusiastic demonstrations. He addressed the electors, and fully endorsed the action of the Convention in making the choice.

Diphtheria.

This fell disease has for some time past been making sad havoc in different parts of the country. Guelph has not been exempt from its ravages although we are happy to say it has not by any means been so prevalent here as in some other towns and cities of the Dominion. We gave a short time ago a recipe which is said to have been very effective in the treatment of this disease, viz:—The use of sulphuric acid, of which four drops are diluted in three-fourths of a tumbler of water to be administered to a grown person and a smaller dose to children, at intervals not specified. The result is said to be a coagulation of the diphtheritic membrane and its ready removal by coughing. For the benefit of the public generally we now give a synopsis of a report, recently presented by the Sanitary Committee of New York, touching upon this matter:—

"Diphtheria is a contagious disease caused by the inoculation of the air passages with the diphtheritic poison, which is diffused by the exhalation of the sick and the air surrounding them, or directly by the exhalation, as in the act of kissing, coughing, spitting, sneezing, or by the infected articles used, as towels, handkerchiefs, etc. It attacks by preference children from one to ten years of age, and may be recognized by the following symptoms:—The patient complains of dry throat, pricking pain in swallowing, and general uneasiness; the throat becomes red, patches of white exudation appear, accompanied by a fetid odour of the breath; a false membrane forms in the throat, and unless the disease subsides the patient dies.

The sick should be rigidly isolated in well-aired (the air being entirely changed at least hourly), unlighted rooms, the outlet of air being as far as possible from the external windows by depressing the upper and elevating the lower sash, or chimney heated by the fire in an open fire-place; all discharges from the mouth and nose should be received into vessels containing disinfectants, as solutions of carbolic acid or sulphate of zinc, or open cloths which are immediately burned, thoroughly boiled, or placed under a disinfecting fluid.

When diphtheria is in the house or in the family the well children should be scrupulously kept apart from the sick in dry well aired rooms and every possible means should be taken to prevent contact with the sick and by articles used by them or in their rooms, should be rigidly guarded against. Every attack of sore throat, croup, and catarrh should be at once attended to. The febrile should have invigorating food and treatment.

Induction at Galt.

On Monday evening the 14th inst., the Rev. Wm. Massey of Russellton, Quebec, Minister elect of St. Andrew's Church Galt, in the presence of a large congregation, was inducted into the pastoral charge of that congregation. The voting. He did not intend to press the matter at this late stage of the session. Col. Hignbottom, M.P., moved the principle of the Bill.

Farewell to Rev. J. K. Smith.

On the evening of Tuesday 8th inst., says the Halifax Citizen, the members of Fort Massey congregation in Halifax took a farewell leave of their late pastor, the Rev. J. K. Smith, previous to his leaving that city to resume work in connection with Knox Church, Galt. The meeting was held in the basement of the Church, and was under the auspices of the Fort Massey Young Men's Association. After refreshments the real work of the evening was inaugurated by a chorus from the ladies, read a short address to Mrs. Smith, accompanied by a testimonial in the shape of an assortment of knives and forks and spoons, of the very best quality. Mrs. Smith's reply was also read by the same gentleman. At a subsequent hour an address was made by Rev. Mr. Smith, which was full of kind words and was marked by intense