

McDougall was a farmer, and for many years resided on Yonge Street, near Toronto, where his son, the Hon. William McDougall, was born. Of late years the family have resided near St. Mary's, and death has been somewhat busy among its members.

MRS. THOMAS J. GRAFFE.

At Mount Forest, Co. Wellington, Ont., on the 18th inst., died Harriet, wife of Thomas J. Graffe, Esq., Coroner and Commissioner in Q. B., aged 60 years. Her disease was the unconquerable cancer in the stomach, and she had undergone a long and patiently-borne sickness. Mr. and Mrs. Graffe, with an only son, settled at Mount Forest about sixteen years ago, when it was a place with one tavern and three or four log shanties, and the surrounding country a wilderness of trees. For many years during the early settlement of the neighbouring townships, Mrs. Graffe rendered unnumbered kindnesses to the families of the poor settlers by her superior skill in the use of simple medicaments, and otherwise by her active and unobtrusive benevolence. In her humble way she rendered services that will cause her to be remembered by many who were indebted to her for personal favours; and it is not impossible that in what, if we mistake not, used to be called the "Johnstone district" of Upper Canada—embracing the counties of Leeds and Grenville—there may yet be many, especially in the neighbourhood of Merrickville and Burritt's Rapids, who still think of Mr. and Mrs. Graffe with the warm glow of an old time friendship. The village of Mount Forest, on the borders of Grey and Wellington, within the past few years has risen to a large, enterprising community, with nearly all the attributes of town life.

A mass-meeting was held last Monday in Victoria Square Montreal, to decide the rates at which American silver should be accepted in the city. The meeting was presided over by Mr. A. W. Ogilvie, M. P. P., and some three or four thousand persons were present. Resolutions were passed affirming that the state of the currency had caused great loss to many classes, and commending the action of the Government in establishing a uniform currency upon a gold basis. It was decided that the following should be the rates at which the depreciated coinage should be current:—Half-dollar, 47c.; quarter, 23c.; dime, 9c.; and half-dime, 4c. Further resolutions were passed recommending the payment of all employees in bankable funds, calling upon retail dealers to fix the price of their goods upon a gold basis, and requesting the withdrawal by the Government of the copper coinage at present in circulation, to be replaced wholly by Canadian cents. The last mentioned resolution, which was moved by Mr. John Dougall, we consider of great importance and deserving the immediate attention of the Minister of Finance. The American cents and Canadian and British half-pennies and pennies only debase our small currency, and ought to be replaced by a coinage of our own, or one corresponding to our established rates.

The St. John Globe corrects us in regard to our notice of the Hon. Albert J. Smith. It says:

"The *Illustrated News* errs in one very important particular. Mr. Smith is not, and never was a Conservative in politics. It might be correct to say that his instincts are Conservative, but his political principles are undoubtedly and genuinely Liberal. He acted in this Province with the Liberal party as long as it had an existence. And his whole political career is an evidence of his adhesion to Liberal principles."

We willingly make the correction as to Mr. Smith's former political associations; but we certainly cannot join with the *Globe* in the following "hope" with which it concludes its remarks concerning his future:

"We hope yet to see the time when Mr. Smith shall receive at the hands of the State of New Brunswick the high reward of giving him a seat in the most august assemblage of legislators in the universe, and for which his talents and integrity admirably fit him. We allude to the Senate of the United States."

The *Globe* deserves credit for its plain speaking, but the consummation to which it looks forward will require a great deal of labour to bring about its realization. Will our contemporary say whether Mr. Smith is working to place New Brunswick in such a "State" that it will be able to fulfil its expectations? This is a question affecting the interests of the whole Dominion, whose people should be informed as to what end their representatives are shaping their course in Parliament.

LITERARY NOTICES.

THE PHRENOLOGICAL JOURNAL, with which is incorporated *Packard's Monthly*, is a magazine published in New York in the interests of Science and Literature. The magazine is not, as might be supposed from its name, devoted entirely to the study of Phrenology, a large portion being taken up with useful and interesting articles, essays and biographies, accompanied by portraits of distinguished men of the day.

STEWART'S QUARTERLY is a magazine that deserves generous support. It comes to us full of entertaining literature and useful information. The articles are well written and to the point, and moreover thoroughly Canadian. The Rev. Mr. Harvey's paper on the climate and resources of Newfoundland will be read with interest throughout the Dominion. To the lovers of poetry the name of Mr. John Reade is sufficient

guarantee of the excellence of the article supplied by *Stewart's Quarterly*. Apropos of poetry we recommend to our readers the perusal of Dr. Clark's paper, especially the part relating to "Canadian Poetry." The other articles in the magazine are all readable and worth reading. As a Canadian enterprise, as well as for its intrinsic value, *Stewart's Quarterly* should be extensively patronized.

FROM THE CAPITAL.

PARLIAMENTARY, &c.

OTTAWA, April 15, 1870.

The Reiffenstein case has at last dragged its slow length to an end, and the man has received what can only be regarded as his well-merited deserts. The change from his luxurious establishment, from servants, horses, carriages, fine dinners, select society, and large parties, to the meagre fare, compulsory labour, felon association, and obedience to the stern behests of wardens and turnkeys, at the Penitentiary, will be extreme; but it should be borne in mind that this is the result of a losing game at fraud and robbery; the odds are, generally, fearfully against the player at this sport, and neither he nor his friends have a right to complain if the forfeiture is exacted. But Mr. Reiffenstein has not been without his sympathisers, and most of them are to be found among the smaller 'swells' of the departments; this is a fitting and comparatively innoxious return for his venison and claret. The judge, Mr. Galt, who, by the bye, has won golden opinions on this, his first appearance here, was frigidly unsympathetic; high-life associations did not affect him in the least! he placed the case before the jury clearly, forcibly, and impartially, and we all know the result. A long good-night to Mr. Reiffenstein, and a hope that his case will be a warning beacon to the weak and the wavering.

Monday being Easter Monday was a holiday for Parliament. The House of Commons on meeting on Tuesday found itself headless, his honour the Speaker having been detained by an accident on the Grand Trunk. The members assembled in force, but nothing could be done, and they sat quietly staring at each other for a couple of hours, and then the House fell to pieces—not certainly by mutual repulsion, but more probably by gravitation towards more congenial pursuits. The estimates occupied the attention of the House during the evening sitting, and the votes for the Militia were agreed to. During their discussion the Red River business cropped out, and in a manner not very encouraging to those who desire to see internal peace and harmony. The hearing of the case of the Red River delegates was postponed, the Hon. J. H. Cameron having been delayed by the same cause that prevented Mr. Speaker Cockburn from reaching Ottawa. The Hon. Donald McDonald met with an accident on Tuesday evening, having been thrown from a carriage while coming up from the Railway Station: his shoulder was dislocated, but under the care of Dr. Grant, the hon. gentleman was speedily made sound and whole. The week has been prolific in notable letters from men of note. The Hon. Mr. McDougall devoted one to the Rev. Father Ritchot, in which he placed certain matters in a very different light to that in which they had been put by the Rev. Father; more particularly as to the overtures said to have been made by the rebels for a pacific settlement, which, according to Mr. McDougall, consisted of a Hobson's choice with a contingency: go, or you will be shot. Mr. McDougall has had a second letter and relating to the surveying expedition of Col. Dennis, in which he defends, and, I think, successfully, that gentleman against the charges that have been brought against him. And he does something of yet more importance—he shows that previous to Col. Dennis being despatched to the North-West the consent of the Hudson Bay Co. had been asked and obtained. Col. Rankin, also, has rushed into print and explanation. He indignantly denies having asked favours or indulgences from Riel, and, what is very much better, he proclaims himself the possessor of an infallible panacea for the peaceable settlement of Riel and Red River difficulties. This business, of itself, is a very unsavoury show; is there not a probability of its not being improved by the manipulation of the prodigious cloud of coaks proffering their services.

Feminism appears, at all events for the moment, to have sunk below the horizon. But let not this induce us to think that the preparations made were unnecessary, or that the country has been needlessly alarmed. The earnestness with which the threatened danger was met, the active preparations made for every contingency, the bold front shown our periodical disturbers, may have served their purpose and stayed the progress of the plundering, murdering madmen. Though he did not come, the cry of "Wolf" may not have been a dream; the cry may, not unlikely, have scared the beast from his prey.

Thursday afternoon witnessed an exceedingly sharp debate and a defeat (?) of the Government. The 17th item in the supplies—the sum appropriated for Dominion Offices in Nova Scotia—was reduced, on motion of Mr. Holton and by 68 to 66, from \$10,500 to \$6,500. This resulted, mainly, from certain New Brunswick votes, which are usually thrown in with Government, being lent to the Opposition. It was not an affair of much significance, but it goes some way to indicate that there exists between the two maritime Provinces a feeling so near akin to jealousy, that it is difficult to find any other term by which to distinguish it. This was followed by a question that never fails to rouse the ire and the objective faculties of a section of the House—the question of salaries. One can scarcely help thinking that certain members of Parliament regard all public employees as their natural enemies. They are an ever-standing target at which unceasing volleys of economical shams are directed. This is, in truth, a mighty easy road to popularity and to place. Let any one look around, and he will see too many who have squeezed themselves into fat and easy births, with no other qualification in the world, than persistence in this eternal and irritating meddling with the public servants. It is a fine opportunity for declamation, but that there is seldom real self-denial or true patriotism in it, witness the manner in which these economical gentlemen act when and where themselves or friends are concerned. Mr. Mackenzie moved an amendment, which the Government persisted, and rightly so, in regarding as a vote of 'want of confidence.' Mr. Masson (Soulanges) moved another. The first was defeated on division, the second was ruled out of order. In the evening sitting of this day the House was in a most unusual disposition for work. The supplies were rushed through at express speed. Over a hundred items were passed. Two or three times the Finance Minister intimated that enough

had been done, but the steam was up and on rolled the train and the dollars.

On Friday, at the afternoon sitting, the House celebrated what appears to have become a recognized institution—its annual saturnalia. A division in committee is the occasion selected. In such a division the names of members are not taken down, instead of which supporters and opponents change sides by crossing over the floor. The fun consists in members dragging or carrying other members who are opposed to them to their side of the House, with the purpose of securing their votes against their wishes. The thing is carried on good-humouredly, but there is a great deal of pulling, hauling, and scuffling, especially between the front ranks of the opposite sides. Mr. Mackenzie, on this, as on all similar occasions that I have witnessed, selected Sir George E. Cartier for his prize. It is no impugnation of Mr. Mackenzie's courage that he should select a small-sized man for the contest, for Sir George kicks and struggles with an energy and determination worthy of a Goliath. Many of the members were thus singularly paired off. Sir John A., with his ordinary tact, managed to slip behind the Speaker's chair and got quietly round. The contest waxed warm, and members could be seen rolling and struggling for mastery on the floor—please let this be taken literally—and potent debaters for once yielded to mere muscular power. An excitable Irishman in the gallery, new to Parliamentary usages, was with difficulty restrained from joining in the sport. He gave a Donnybrook shout, threw off his coat, and made an attempt to slip down in the House; but cooler heads interfered, and he reluctantly resigned his intention. It was some time before quietness was restored, but the good humour engendered was carried into a division that took place on the Interest Bill shortly after; an amendment was defeated by a large majority, and in such a pliable temper were the Opposition that they agreed that the original motion should be declared carried by the same division. This is an unusual occurrence. The evening sitting was also characterized by novel proceedings. Mr. Ferguson wished to speak in opposition to the Canada Central Railway Bill, and the House was determined not to hear him. He persisted, and such a storm as probably never before raged in that chamber, at all events not since the notorious exhibition of the late member for Brockville, sprang up. Sir John A. was the first (and, as usual, in excellent English) to try to calm the raging elements. Sir George E. Cartier followed in French of purest accent. Mr. Sandfield Macdonald then, to the great amusement of the few who understood him, tried his powers in Gaelic. Still the storm raged. Sir George next tried to exorcise the storm-fiends in Latin; quickly followed, without effect, by Mr. Levesconte in Spanish. As a last resource, Sir George poured Greek on the troubled waters; this was too much, if not for the House, assuredly for Mr. Ferguson. The hon. gentleman subsided—into his seat, and the elements into their normal condition, and, once more, victory was proclaimed in the sweet tongue of Hellas! Mr. Abbott likened the House to an assembly of Choctaws. It is a saddening reflection that in all that numerous assembly there was not a man who could speak or understand a syllable, not only of the Choctaw, but of any one of the numerous languages spoken by the races that assembly has displaced, and in whose stead it now reigns. Some of the Ottawa papers profess to report these speeches as delivered. May you be spared the reading of them.

Of Friday's proceedings in the House there is a very different tale to tell. Rarely in the annals of the Canadian Parliament has a day more remarkable for ill-temper and acerbity and personal disputes been noted. Even sectional differences, which every well-wisher of his country hoped had been buried for ever, and the noble monument of Confederation erected over their grave, were resuscitated and drawn forth to view. Mr. Mackenzie complained that a certain measure had been carried solely by a majority of Quebec votes, a majority of each of the other three provinces voting against it. This was very properly and very forcibly rebuffed by the Minister of Justice, who argued that Confederation had abrogated sectional distinctions and made us one sole and united whole. It is well to be able to report that the House was heartily with him. This was followed on Saturday by a yet more lamentable display—a personal altercation between Mr. Holton and Sir Francis Hincks, in which language was used that required an enormous strain to bring it within the meaning of the term 'Parliamentary,' and which, with collaterals, occupied full two hours. It occurred on a question relating to the Interest Bill, which has been a source of much angry discussion on several occasions. Eventually two divisions took place, both seriously damaging to the bill, which, it is rumoured, will be withdrawn and re-introduced in a different shape. The House sat till some time after midnight, a circumstance which I never remember before. At 12 Mr. Mackenzie rose, and protesting against the further continuance of the sitting, took his departure.

The authorities are busily engaged in preparations for the Red River expedition. Men are being enrolled, uniforms are in course of preparation, and several boats are ready for service. There are indications of very unpleasant scenes in the House when a vote for the expenses is asked for; but it is to be hoped that prudent counsels will prevail.

All sorts of rumours are current as to the prorogation, but it is believed that the session will continue, at the shortest, some fourteen days, or, more probably, three weeks from the present date.

CANADIAN LITERATURE.—We see by our Ottawa despatch that Mr. Samuel Watson, a gifted and well-known press-man, and who has served this journal in his time, has gained the first prize offered by the spirited and enterprising proprietor of the *Canadian Illustrated News*, for a romance founded on incidents in the History of Canada. The story will shortly appear in the *Illustrated News*, and will, we doubt not, prove not only worthy of its author's literary reputation, but creditable and beneficial to our thriving contemporary. We understand Mr. S. Watson shortly intends giving to the public an original poem, which those who have had the opportunity of perusing speak of in high terms.—*Quebec Chronicle*.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

F. B., Quebec.—The publication of our first Premium story, "The Peace Killer; or The Massacre of Lachine," will commence with the first number issued in July. The author is a clever short-hand reporter at present on the staff of the *Toronto Globe*.