Huron Signal.

GODERICH, C. W., DEC. 13, 1864.

GENERAL GEO. B. McCLELLAN.

It seems to be one of the inexorable decrees that, in order to gain for himself a name which shall be inscribed upon the scroll of fame in imperishable characters, a man must be *successful*. To command the respect of a vast majority of your fellow-men, whether your sphere in life be of a public or private capacity, you must needs be successful. Become known as a rising merchant, and all experience teaches that you will be borne along upon the zephyrs of popular applause, but let it once be hinted with any show of reason that you are likely to figure in the *Gazette*, and at once you begin to experience the meaning of the phrase, "man's inhumanity to man." The tongue of flattery lies dormant.—friends fly as do the rats from a sinking ship—props which were offered freely once when they were not required are withdrawn hastily, if not rudely, and cast out of the good ship Prosperity, you are left to struggle alone in the dark and stormy waters, within earshot of the sounds of merriment on board. Just so is it with the leaders of great armies. If they are fortunate enough to be successful, men vie with each other in sounding their praises, and historians recount with pride their glorious deeds, while humbler biographers pick up thankfully whatever crumbs of incident or personal characteristic may be left. A few appreciative souls there are who would recognize genius in the most successful warriors of ancient or modern times, even though misfortune should have shorn them of half their laurels, but we feel conscious that *success* is, after all, the great standard by which all are measured. Who shall say that Napoleon I, Wellington, or Washington, would occupy such a large place in the estimation of the world at large, if they had not been so successful? Gen. Lee, *one* of the foremost commanders of the age, if not *the* foremost, will, if Southern independence is achieved through his instrumentality, be placed as high on the glorious list of heroes as Washington himself; but, if his noblest efforts end in defeat, and if he is compelled eventually to fly into exile, he will be known in history only as an unsuccessful *rebel* leader, and his merits be appreciated only by the very few who are magnanimous enough to recognize genius independent of the fortuitous circumstances by which it is thwarted and baffled. In forming an estimate of the military capacity of General McClellan, it is necessary to keep these considerations in view. He was not a match for Lee, but no other federal commander, in our opinion, can be compared with him in ability, or in those noble qualities which tend to render warfare honorable, and which, in a great measure ameliorate the horrors inflicted upon a country in a state of civil strife. When in August, 1861, he was called upon by the President to give his views upon the military affairs of the country, we find that his was the only mind capable of correctly estimating the greatness of the struggle upon which the nation had entered. While Secretary Seward, unawed by the disaster of Bull's Run, was proclaiming *his* celebrated opinion as to the probable duration of the war, McClellan saw that elaborate preparation was necessary, and that at the very least 273,000 men would be required for the first important campaign. His opinion, as given at that time, may not have been correct in every respect, but it at least proved that he possessed more sound common sense than any other of the President's many advisers. In the month of November, 1861, General McClellan was placed in command of the Federal armies, and in February following preparations were made for the ensuing active campaign. His idea was then, as it continued to be to the last, that Richmond was more vulnerable by way of the Lower Potomac than by the direct route from Washington. In this view he is supported by the highest military authority of the age, and the fearful slaughter of the federal troops, subsequently, under Pope, Hooker, Burnside, and Grant, are so many awful attestations of the fact that however sagacious in other respects, President Lincoln's "On to Richmond" theory was fallacious in the extreme. General McClellan's plan was adopted. He proposed to make Fortress Monroe his first basis of supply, the line of operations upon Richmond being by Yorktown and West Point, the James River to be used for the transport of supplies as well as general co-operation on the part of the gunboats. No sooner, however, had McClellane entered upon his new campaign than interference with his movements began. First Blenker's division of ten thousand men was detached and sent to the West, then McDowell's corps was withdrawn, and so on until he was deprived of 50,000 of his best troops. We all know the result: how the fleet failed to co-operate and how he was goaded on to strike a blow which he knew in his soul could not be delivered effectively, and how at last he almost miraculously succeeded in withdrawing his dispirited army down the Peninsula followed by the triumphant legions of the Confederacy. McClellan complained bitterly that his army had not been supported, he was not allowed for a moment to exercise his own judgment, he was snubbed and abused as no man of less equanimity of temper would have submitted to, and yet none of these facts were considered when it became known that he was *unsuccessful*. His rival, Pope, however, fared worse. Going forth in the strength of his vanity, he attacked the Confederates under Lee and Jackson and was ignominiously defeated, his broken forces being hurled back upon Washington itself. In the emergency of the moment all eyes were turned upon McClellan. If he could not turn the tide all was lost. He cheerfully undertook the task, and having reorganized the army, met Lee at Antietam. His plan of attack, according to an able writer in *Blackwood*, to whom we are indebted for an excellent article on the general's career—was not the best that could have been devised, but it is certain that he gained some advantage over his enemy, and that Lee, in view of approaching reinforcements for the federals, thought it necessary to recross the Potomac with his rich booty, rather than risk another battle. And thus it was that the much-abused McClellan saved the federal capital, and cleared the country North of the Potomac of the invaders.—The shout that greeted his qualified success was rapturous. "Little Mac" was the hero of the moment with the masses, as he was almost adored by the army—But the jubilation was short-lived. He was becoming too popular, and while he was hopefully planning the circumvention of his wily foe, he was deposed summarily and unheard, a general want of success being the alleged cause. We believed at the time, and still believe, that if Geo. B. McClellan had possessed ambition and daring enough, he need never have submitted to the indignity heaped upon him. Idolized by the soldiery, a stirring appeal would have gathered them every one around him, and he might have ejected the President from the White House, to assume the position himself, of Dictator. But he either lacked the ambition or was too good a citizen to undertake the experiment, and therefore retired with dignified calmness. And now, driven from the army and rejected at the polls, he must sink quietly into insignificance amongst the world's unrewarded, if not *unsuccessful* men. We give, in conclusion, a short extract from the article to which we have alluded:—

"But there is one aspect in which McClellan shines with absolute lustre when compared with other generals of the North. The spirit in which he makes war is humane and honorable. The grisly fanaticism of Sherman—who lays waste a broad belt of cultivated country along his line of march, as if some poisonous wind had swept over it, and who depopulates cities and districts as a sacrifice to that extinct Union, a belief in which he has erected into a religious principle not to be denied without blasphemy—finds no countenance from McClellan. Of that Union he has always professed himself a firm adherent; but he has never proclaimed that it is to be maintained at the cost of the destruction of the Southern people, and the devastation of their territory.

GREAT CONFLAGRATION.

A BRICK BLOCK CONSUMED!

We regret very much that it is our duty to record to-day the particulars of a fire more destructive in its effects than any that has occurred in Goderich for years. It was first observed about half-past 12 this morning in the lower part of the store of Mr. W. E. Grace, West Street. The flames must have broken out quite unobserved, because the first object presented to those arriving at the scene after the alarm was given was Mr. Jonathan Black, Mr. Grace's clerk, in a most precarious position. The fire had shut him out from egress down stairs, and he stood half stifled with smoke at an upper window calling for help. A ladder was procured with as little delay as possible, by which Mr. Black made his escape. The building was at that time so completely within the power of the devouring element that it was found impossible to save it with the limited means at hand. Not a single dollar's worth, we believe, of Mr. Grace's large stock of goods was saved. Sad as this destruction was, it soon became apparent that the adjoining buildings must be involved in the ruin. The Bank of Montreal, on the West, which was only erected last summer, took fire, and burned to the ground, Mr. Finlay, the teller, having barely time to escape with the few articles of clothing he could hastily snatch. On the East the large tin-shop of Messrs. Story & Davis caught about the same time, and the utmost that could be done was to save as much as possible of the goods before the roof fell in. Quite a large number of stoves and small wares were conveyed to the street, but we are sorry to say that the great bulk of the splendid stock in the shop, together with the whole of the proprietor's valuable tools, was destroyed. Thence the fire spread still further Eastward to the law office of Mr. J B. Gordon, and the building formerly occupied by Mr. Morrow, which were, like the others, leveled with the ground. Where were the firemen during all this time? The members of No. 1 were promptly on the ground with their engine, but unfortunately it was found that the valves were frozen up so as to render it useless. With great labor, however, the engine was got into working order in time to render very great service in saving Kay's Block, in which this office is situated. At one time we thought for certain that the old *Signal* was *non est* for the next three months at least, but thanks to the exertions of the firemen and other hard workers and a sound 18 inch brick wall we were spared that calamity.

The losses sustained will vary with the amounts of insurance effected on the respective buildings and their contents. Mr. Blake loses a two story building next Kay's Block, Mr. Gordon saved all his law books and papers, and his safe is all right. Messrs. Story & Davis will lose somewhere about $2000 over and above an insurance of $1600. Mr. Grace is, we believe, pretty fully insured, and the Bank of Montreal will lose none of its treasures. Mr. Nasmyth's dwelling and shop was not consumed, but his furniture was pitched into the street and considerably damaged.

The Bank of Montreal will be opened for the time being in its old stand, North Street.

In our next we may be in a position to give further particulars, and in the meantime we must crave the indulgence of our readers for the absence of several articles and local items intended for this issue, the proximity of such a terrible fire, being, we know an all-sufficient excuse.

THE LAST VESSEL of the SEASON.

Gallant feat of Capt. Murray McGregor, who brings a vessel into Goderich Harbor during the night, in an awful snow storm.

Goderich can proudly boast of seamen second not even to the saltiest of ocean tars in skill or bravery. Time and again have they brought their vessels into port when it seemed impossible for anything composed of timber, cordage and iron to live upon Lake Huron, and more than once has it been our duty to record their gallantry in rushing into the boiling waves to rescue the shipwrecked, but never have we heard of as a reality or read in fiction a more gallant act than was performed by Capt. Murray McGregor on Sunday night last, while we "land lubbers" were endeavoring to keep our toes warm at parlor fires. Seldom, if ever, have we, during a twenty-five years knowledge of Huron, witnessed a fiercer snow storm than that of Sunday last. During the forenoon, to be sure, the snow fell quietly enough, and all rejoiced in the prospect of splended sleighing, but early in the afternoon the wind shifted to the S. W. and began to blow "great guns," whirling the fleecy snow into almost impassable drifts which buried fences, and rendered locomotion out of the question, excepting to people of the "Excelsior" stamp. The churches in the evening were almost deserted, but surely the thin congregations would have heard a fervent prayer to the Almighty for the struggling mariner, had it been suspected that at that moment a little vessel was battling bravely with the raging sea and blinding masses of snow on Lake Huron. It seems that the schooner *L Patton*, owned by our townsman, Councillor Leonard, was lying some days at Southampton, and that Capt. McGregor went up by land for the purpose of bringing her to this port. Tempted by the fair wind from the N E., the Captain cast loose on Sunday morning about 11 o'clock, and struck out boldly for Goderich. All went well for some hours, but when off Kincardine, the wind lulled ominously a few moments, and then the terrific gale came right down upon the little vessel from the S. S. W., "striking her in the teeth," as sailors say, and making every timber quiver with the shock. The situation was critical enough to appal the stoutest heart. Added to the force of the wind and driving snow was a *cross sea*, as much to be feared as either, but McGregor struggled on manfully. Suddenly, and without a note of warning, a portion of the steering apparatus gave way, and then for a long hour and a half the vessel was drifting at the mercy of the elements. The damage being temporarily repaired at last, the vessel was again put upon her course. She arrived off Goderich about half-past 10 p. m., but now the danger was increased a hundred fold.—To attempt running in, and missing the narrow entrance was sure destruction, and the snow was driving so thickly that no guiding beacon was visible. Just then, however, the clouds broke for a moment, and the light on high bank was visible. Seizing his opportunity Capt McGregor dashed in, notwithstanding the impossibility of seeing the pier-lights. From his thorough knowledge of the harbor he knew about where to find the entrance, and, by great good fortune, he ran in safely. Knowing as we do the fearful perils of the night, we can well imagine how each sailor's heart bounded with joy and gratitude as he saw the schooner glide once more into smooth water, and felt that he was saved as if by a miracle. All honor to the brave Captain and stout men who brought the L. Patton into Goderich Harbor on Sunday night in the face of one of the severest snow storms we have ever witnessed! Surely the gallant act—one of the most daring ever attempted on the lakes—is worthy of the public record we have attempted, and as surely should we all rejoice that amongst us we have living examples of the glorious "Hearts of Oak" which have rendered British sailors famous on every sea, wherever the elements are to be battled with and terrible difficulties triumphed over.

COUNTY COURT AND QUARTER SESSIONS.

The Courts were opened to-day (Tuesday) at noon, as usual, the County Court Judge—who has just returned from a rather heavy and very cool circuit—presiding. There was a fair attendance of magistrates and jurymen, notwithstanding the snow drifts which have rendered the roads almost impassable at some places. If having to come from as far off as Southampton, Paisley, &c., suits jurors and witnesses, it still behooves them to obstruct the erection of County Buildings in their own County. With the aid of local newspapers and local politicians, of the "Little Peddington" school, they have succeeded so far. A few more such journeys as these may almost make these same jurymen vote for gravel roads and a county town. The Chairman charged the Jury to the following effect:

"There are, we find, ten prisoners in the jail. On visiting the jail you will find that some of them are incarcerated under circumstances that prevent us from dealing with them here. Some are insane. Much has been said about the impropriety of using the gaol as a lunatic asylum. It must be used as such until the asylums receive the unfortunates who are placed there with a view to the safety of themselves and of the public. Upon the proper certificates of the Medical Examiners, of whom the gaol surgeon is one, they will be removed to the asylum if the asylum is ready to receive them. But it sometimes happens that there is not room, and, as the gaol surgeon can tell you—and he takes every pains in the matter—delays often occur in consequence of the officers of the asylum not always having a vacant place ready. I would recommend you to consult the surgeon, Dr. McDougall, before coming to a conclusion and framing your presentment on the subject of these prisoners, and your opinion as to them can be laid before the County Council at its meeting of this day week.

There is a prisoner charged with arson, and another with forgery, but these must remain for the assizes, however great the inconvenience of their remaining in prison, until the assizes, unless admitted to bail. The other cases where prisoners are committed, and some where parties are on bail for the like offences, such as larceny, can be disposed of here. One is a charge for horse-stealing, an offence which we have heard of remarkably often in these Counties. If your business is large, it may be said in extenuation of the fact, that your jurisdiction embraces a larger and much more populous district than any other Grand Jury has to be assembled from; and does not necessarily show an increase of crime. One subject to which attention should be paid, is the mode of paying constables.—Their accounts are subjected to the closest scrutiny, their fees are not too much, delay takes place in the payment, as the accounts have to go to Quebec to be audited, and no extra allowance can be made for extra diligence; and the consequence is, that constables are often either lukewarm or resign their thankless and often dangerous offices, of which thieves and rowdies being well aware pursue their bad avocations with the more boldness and greater chances of success.—Whether any better system can be adopted may be for you to suggest and the Legislature to consider.

One kind of offence is still prevalent in the country which may well occupy a little of your attention as well as ours. The abominable system of selling men into foreign service—no matter to which still continues—and is rather on the increase, contrary to the "Foreign Enlistment Act," contrary to the laws of neighbouring nations, contrary to the express orders of both powers in the neighbouring States, and expressly contrary, not only to the well known laws of Canada, as laid down at the last Assizes here by Mr. Justice Hagarty, but also to the express orders and instructions of the Government, so communicated to the Crown Attornies and others.—There is a mode of evading the law successfully, and it is done every day. Men are hired ostensibly for mere work in the States. No enlistment or proposals to enlist takes place here. All that is done after the arrival at the Depot or place of sale No steps can be taken apparently to prevent this—and well do the crimps, dealers not in black, but in white human flesh, know this. After the arrival beyond the lines there is a choice between starvation and enlistment, with a bounty on the side of the enlistment, and worse means used, which need not be named here.

The only protection we have against this trickery, which the law cannot reach, is in the conduct, advice and example of our own people. We should not be cheated out of the bone and sinew of our own country in such a manner. Fathers and mothers are grieving for the loss or danger of sons whose strong arms might be, and ought to be, earning those fathers' and mothers' bread, and ready if need be, (and need may be at any time) to defend the sacred soil of a father's home and their own land, and their own sovereign. It is hard to lose our yeomanry like this. The hackneyed truism of the poet becomes a proverb now:—

"A stout yeomanry—the country's pride,
When once they're gone, can never be supplied."

It is enough to find in the duty of a christian, that you may be justified in defacing the Maker's image, and "spilling His sacred stream," in defence of Sovereign, or soil, or self, or one's home; but to do otherwise than in self-defence—to do so for a foreign power—to do so for mere pay—this is something which it is everyone's duty to do his best lawfully to see that their sons and those under their charge are not cajoled or tricked or enticed into doing. Having seen much of it done, the Bench felt it a duty to say so much as a warning to all who hear and all who may think properly on the subject. A word to the wise may be sufficient to put them on their guard,—no number of words will do good with the foolish, "For bray a fool in a mortar and he will still be one." What is said is with no reference to the merits of the horrible civil war raging so close to us it is another's quarrel, not ours, and one in which we have neither right nor inclination to interfere; but we put forth the warning with a view to abate as much as we can this crying evil. One case may be stated which is but one in a thousand. An old man went to Saginaw to find what had become of two sons of his. He was informed that they had gone off: employed in some work at San-Francisco. He was assured of this by the very crimp who had made money out of them. He finds they are both mercenaries, having been sold by this crimp—one of the most successful ones in the service,—Mr. Jardine, late of Southampton, and the old man's gray hairs are coming down with sorrow to the grave. We should use all moral influence to prevent this spirit of adventure, natural to the young, from leading them into wrong.—Money in hand and glory in prospect are great temptations, but they ill repay the pain that such a course leaves at home. There is a government order against the exportation of munitions of war. Is it in the power of the Government to prevent the exportation of men of war—men fit to fight any one's battles, physically, but who cannot fight the battles of any country but their own without perjury, morally or legally—morally if they have not taken our oath, and both morally and legally if they have done so. The authorities should keep the strictest watch upon all who are concerned in this crimping business. Three quarters of men are being kidnapped—the jail birds of the Province. They should be let go without molestation. The disaffected towards the Crown,—they, also, may be safely left to make their own bed and lie in it. But there is one class of people who should be, in every way that is lawful, protected from the brigandage of the crimps who infest many parts of Canada, and certainly these Counties,—the loyal, well conducted but easily led men, who readily believe that they are only going to the work that is promised them. These should be warned that the advertisements and blandishments of those who induce them to leave Canada are merely the slime of the crimping serpent. Conscientious and loyal men cannot be too careful now-a-days, especially on the frontier.

I hand you a copy of the jail regulations.—I am clear that the unconvicted should not be treated as prisoners under sentence, but with all possible indulgence consistently with these regulations; for not only the innocent, but the most upright may, through some mistake or fraud or wrong be imprisoned for a long time before trial and acquittal, and it was never intended that one neither convicted nor committed for punishment, but only to await trial, with, for all we know as much chance of acquittal as any one, should be punished before trial by the infliction of "prison diet."

Any opinions of yours on these subjects, and on any others that occur to you will be promptly laid before the County Council on Tuesday, and also before the Executive, and will no doubt receive due consideration.

European News.

The royal mail steamship Canada, which left Liverpool at 8 a. m. on the 26th and Queenstown on the 27th of November, arrived at Hallifax at 6 a. m. to-day with 37 Halifax and 45 Boston passengers.—The steamship City of Manchester, from New York, reached Liverpool early on the morning of the 25th. The Persia arrived at Queenstown on the evening of the 25th. The London 'Globe' says that Lord Lyons has not resigned, but is about to return home on six months' leave on account of ill health. The 'Daily News' in an editorial on the proposed arming of the slaves in the South doubts if it will be done, but is satisfied with the mere proposal as an earnest of the approaching end, both of the war and of the evil and curse which generated it. It is stated that as the Florida on her seizure at Bahia was taken entirely by surprise everything on board was secured by the captors, and among the papers was much important information which it is said may implicate some foreign officials of high rank in active sympathy and aid in favor of the Confederates. The London 'Daily News' publishes a letter from Prof. Goldwin Smith, dated Boston, Nov. 9, on the Presidential election. He extolls the tranquility with which the contest was conducted, and looks in vain for evidences of the tyranny of the majority. He could scarcely conceive the nation in the midst of a great political struggle more temperate, orderly or respectful of each other's rights. He regards the defeat of the Democrats as a great escape from danger of both America and England, as the Democrats would have adopted a strong foreign policy, particularly against England. Gen. Tom Thumb, wife and suite, had been received at the Marlboro House by the Prince and Princess of Wales. Mr. Spooner, for many years the well-known Protestant leader in the House of Commons, is dead. The Lord Mayor of Dublin had been giving a banquet to the Lord Lieutenant, who in a speech bore testimony to the undoubted recovery and progress of Ireland. Frequent and disastrous gales continued around the English coast, causing numerous wrecks, accompanied by loss of life.

THE AMERICAN WAR.

SHERMAN IN A "TIGHT PLACE."

NEW YORK, Dec. 7.—We have to-day some additional items from Confederate sources showing how the fright at Sherman's approach to the sea-coast is spreading in Georgia and South Carolina.

All the officials, civil and military, have issued fierce and feverish proclamations calling on every male, old and young, able to shoulder a musket to report immediately for duty.

The Mayor of Savannah and Charleston, as well as the Confederate army officers commanding in those places, have issued before their already terrified communities documents of this character, probably by this means adding considerably to the panic. Governor Brown, of Georgia, has issued three more proclamations on the crisis, but in Charleston, according to the *Republican* of that city, even these stirring papers do not bring out the citizens, for it appears a military guard has to go around the town and drag them out of their hiding places.

Gen Dick Taylor has been assigned to the command of all the Alamaba and Georgia reserves with headquarters at Savannah.

The Macon *Telegraph* of Nov. 25th says: "Sherman's situation is daily growing more precarious, and we may confidently hope for his complete overthrow and destruction.—The central road is said to be entirely destroyed between Griswoldville and McIntyre."

NASHVILLE, Dec. 6.—Very little of interest transpired yesterday. Artillery skirmishing continued through the day.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 6.—The Savannah *Republican* of Dec. 1st, says that it mentioned in a previous issue that a force of Federals had landed on Broad river, and were avancing on the railroad in the direction of Grahamsville. During the night the Confederates had transported an effective force to that point, which, uniting with that already on the ground, marched forward on the 30th under command of Gen Gustavus Smith, of the Georgia State troops, to meet them.

The *Republican* says the Federal troops numbered 5,000 men, with 18 pieces of artillery. Smith was attacked at a place called Honey Hill, three miles from Grahamsville. The Confederates had only 1,600 muskets and 7 pieces of artillery. The fight lasted till dark. We (the paper says) repulsed every attack, and finally drove the enemy's right and centre, but the left stood unmoved at the close of the action. The confederates received reinforcements, but notwithstanding their boasting, they admit it was a drawn battle. Last night (the 30th) the *Republican* says seven or eight transports loaded with troops were rapidly going up Broad river, which gives assurance that the fight will be resumed to-day. The *Republican* says Wheeler managed Kilpatrick with all ease.

DETROIT, Dec 7.—Positive information has been received here that a raid upon this city is being organized by Confederate refugees in Canada. Col Hill, military commander, in a note to Mayor Barker, recommends that immediate measures be taken to organize and arm a regiment of militia for local protection. Active measures are being taken to protect the city.

POUGHKEEPSIE, Dec. 10.—A heavy snow-storm commenced last night, and ceased about 10 o'clock this morning. Ten inches of snow fell.

PHILADELPHIA, Dec. 10.—A heavy snow storm commenced here at one o'clock this morning and closed about day light.

NEW YORK, Dec. 10.—A heavy snow storm commenced here at an early hour this morning and continued till about ten, when it turned to rain with all its consequences.

A Milledgeville corespondent of the Augusta Constitutionalist says:—The Yankees were admirably clothed and appointed, each man had eighty rounds of ammunition, while their waggons contained fixed material without stint. Rations for forty days had been prepared and they suffered for nothing.

NASHVILLE, Dec. 10.—The situation of affairs remains unchanged. In front of the 4th corps not a shot was fired up to 2 o'clock this evening. Owing to the slippery state of the ground the men find it impossible to move about.

Deserters who come in say that the Confederates have strong entrenchments with 2 rows of *chevaux de frieze*, with wires stretched around to strengthen them.

Col Louis Johnson, instead of Col G M S Johnson, commander of the 44th colored infantry, has received from the General Commanding, the highest praise for the manner in which he fought his troops at Mill Creek Station, No 2.

No report has yet been heard from the gun boats which went down the river yesterday morning.

NEW YORK, Dec. 11.—The Augusta Chronicle of the 4th, says:—The fact that Sherman's army had reached Millen, settles the question that its destination is towards Savannah His route, however, is yet to be determined, Foster's advance, together with his sending up signals, indicate that he expected to meet Sherman, but the latter failed to come to time. No point is to be fixed by the capture of Grahamsville. It was to cut off reinforcements from Augusta to Savannah. This would place Savannah at his mercy as he would use Port Royal as a base, and then proceed to the ultimate object of his campaign, the capture of Savannah, or perhaps, Charleston. He would hardly risk a battle before Savannah with only the supplies he has on hand. He will first secure his base, and that will be Grahamsville and Port Royal. In view of these considerations, no matter what feints he may make, he will aim to reach the point where Foster is now waiting for him.

The American Currency.

The New York *World* says:—There is now afloat in the loyal States nearly one thousand millions of paper money, without one dollar of gold or real money to pay for the same The largest amount of paper money ever used in the same States, before the rebellion, was about $150,000,000, and the sum was found to be ample to transact more than double our present amount of business, and also to carry the weight of Southern indebtedness to the North. These figures give some faint idea of the magnitude of the evil to which our legal currency has reached.

An Affecting Incident.

Yester-eve, with joyous spirits, and in gorgeous trim arrayed, I sallied forth with charming Adelaide, for a dashing promenade. Ah! what strains of magic power swell the cord of youthful pride, as one treads the walks of fashion with a beauty by his side.—Ada, with a grace bewitching, seemed to trip on fairy feet, and each passer turned to view us sailing grandly up King street; thrilled my heart with adoration for my fond affections' queen, beating time to mystic rustling of her waving crinoline. Suddenly my charmer faltered, as if shocked by some great ill, while the anguish of her features seemed my inmost soul to chill; lightly on my arm she languished, and I cried in anxious fear: "Speak once more, my darling Ada—tell me what's the matter, dear." Methought her gentle form grew lesser, by the collapse of her gown, as she sighed in trembling accents: "Love, my *skeleton* is down!"

☞ An Irishman was directed by a lady of large size to secure and pay for two seats in the stage as she wanted comfortable room in riding. The fellow returned and said: I've paid for two seats ye tould me to; but as I couldn't get but one for the inside of the coach, I took the other for the outside.

COMPLIMENTARY.—Lord North, who was very corpulent before a severe sickness, said to his physician after it. Sir, I am obliged to you for introducing me to some old acquaintances. Who are they, my lord? inquired the doctor. My ribs, replied his lordship, which I have not felt for many years until now.

WHERE IS THE SECOND CORPS?—The following significant answer to the above question was recently given by the gallant General Hancock, of the U. S. army: "have left the Second Corps dead on the battle fields between the Rapidan and Petersburg!"

WOOD WANTED.

Parties who intend paying their subscriptions in Cordwood will please bring it on right away. Don't bring us a lot of miserable knots.

GRAND TRUNKR. R.

TIME TABLE.

GOING EAST.
Express dep. 9 a m, Mixed 12 m & 4.30 p.m,
GOING WEST.
" Arr 4.30 p m, Mixed 10.40 a m & 4 "

Town & Counties

☞ THE UNITED COUNTIES COUNCIL will meet in Goderich on Tuesday the 20th inst.

☞ A correspondent writes to complain of the great difficulty constables find in getting their accounts passed at the Quarter Sessions, although every care is used to ensure correctness.

SOIREE.—A Soiree will take place in the Good Templar's Hall, Manchester, on the evening of the 26th inst. Good speaking and singing may be expected. It is to be under the auspices of the members of the M. E. Church, and in aid of its Mission Fund.

SNOW STORM.—We have been favored during the past few days with a snow storm of the real biting sort. Yesterday (Thursday) it was so severe that people could scarcely venture their noses out of doors. As a consequence the railway trains have been thrown out of time.

United Canadian Alliance for the Suppression of the Liquor Traffic.

To the Editor of the Huron Signal.

DEAR SIR,—Will you allow me through the medium of your columns to say to all those who desire to arouse public opinion in their several neighbourhoods in favor of "The Temperance Act of 1864," that the services of our Lecturers may be obtained by making an early application to the Council of the Alliance, stating the District to be visited, and the time the services of the Lecturing Agent would in each case be required.

Yours respectfully,

J. WILLET, *Secretary*.

38 Great St. James Street,
Montreal, Dec. 8th, 1864.

THE TEMPERANCE BILL IN USBORNE.

A public meeting was held in the Good Templars' Hall, under the auspices of "Rose of Sharon" Lodge, No. 81, B. A. of G. T., on Wednesday evening, Nov. 30th, for the purpose of considering the provisions of the Temperance Act of 1864. The hour for opening the meeting having arrived, and the house being well filled, proceedings commenced by the Rev. E. Roberts engaging in prayer, after which Mr. James Halls was called to the chair. The chairman briefly explained the object of the meeting, and hoped that parties would weigh well what might be said, and then called on Mr James Dickson to address the meeting.

Mr. Dickson set forth the claims of the Temperance cause in a very forcible manner, and showed that there have been distinguished temperance men in all ages of the world, instancing Cyrus the Medo-Persian Monarch, Alexander the Great, Tecumseh the Indian warrior, Black Hawk, Slow Foot, William Tell the hero of Switzerland, George Washington, and his noble countryman "Wallace of Scotland." He went on to show that the various temperance laws which have been enacted have been each an improvement on its predecessors, and that Mr. Dunkin's Bill is the best we have ever had, and concluded by making an eloquent appeal to the ratepayers present on behalf of the Bill.

Rev. A. McFadey and Rev. E. Roberts followed with eloquent addresses.

The following resolution was then put to the meeting, and carried almost unanimously:—

Moved by Mr. J Dickson, seconded by Rev. E. Roberts, and resolved—"That this meeting approves of Mr. Dunkin's Temperance Act, and pledges itself to aid the Convention in using all lawful means to carry the same into effect in this township."

After votes of thanks had been given to the speakers and chairman, the meeting broke up.

Was Alexander the Great a Temperance Man?

Dear Signal,—In your last Semi-Weekly I observe that in a speech delivered lately by "Mr. James Dickson,"—our member I presume—upon the subject of prohibition, he cited Alexander the Great and several Indian chiefs as examples of temperance. Now, Sir, of the "Injins" mentioned habitually eschewed "fire water," I think their names were well worthy of mention, but really it strikes me as something new to hear that the conqueror of Darius was a temperance man. Rollin and other celebrated translators of the ancient authors, as you are doubtless aware, deplore the blemish upon Alexander's character caused by his unhappy addiction to *drunkenness* of the grossest description. Under the influence of liquor he acted the fool generally, murdered his bosom friends, and at last died in the midst of a shameful debauch! I should like very much to know whether Mr. Dickson has found out by some means that the alleged intemperance of Alexander was one of those *myths* which *will* sometimes creep into the most carefully kept historical records? Will some friend of temperance solve the question which plunges your correspondent into a maze of

PERPLEXITY.

A FRAUDULENT MUMMY.—A Quebec paper says:—"We understand that Dr. Douglas has completed the unrolling of the Mummy which was partially exposed to view at a late meeting of the Literary and Historical Society. Strange to say, although the hieroglyphics on the case distinctly asserted the corpse to have been one of the ladies of Pharaoh's Court, the Mummy turned out to be that of an undersized individual of the masculine gender! The Mummy case was evidently intact when it came into Dr. Douglas's possession, not having been interfered with by the Arabs; the inference consequently follows that the deception must have been practiced by the old embalmers. There were, it seems, tricks in the trade, even among the Egyptian priests."

The editor of the Quebec paper referred to does not seem to be aware that in Egypt imitation mummies are now manufactured and sold to "verdant" travellers. Owing to the stringent measures adopted by the late Pachas, it is in the present time almost impossible to obtain a genuine mummy. It is difficult to imagine what object the ancient embalmers could have had in practising such a deception. Within 24 hours after my arrival in Egypt, I was solicited by mummy venders to purchase numerous articles of the kind, each of which had a long history attached to it, but none of them found a purchaser in me, as I had been made aware that their mummies had all been made at a modern mummy manufactory.—J. M.

To the Churchwardens in the Diocese of Huron.

DEAR BRETHREN,—I address you under the impression that my object in doing so will be kindly received and rightly understood. You will have in recollection the impressive pastoral letters addressed to Churchwardens, on former occasions, by our esteemed Bishop, requesting that the Christmas offertory of the several congregations throughout the diocese should be presented to their respective pastors, a usage, I may observe, practised in the other dioceses of the Province. His Lordship the Bishop expressed his views relative to the gratifying indications of the kindness and liberality of our people which such donations would evince, and which, without being particularly burdensome on individual members of congregations, will be of material use to the Clergy. "I have full confidence, therefore, that the wishes of our absent Bishop in this matter will meet with due respect. The Churchwardens, and those they represent, will best judge of the most appropriate way of presenting the offertory and other accustomed gifts to their Pastors,

With sincere desire for fraternal sympathy amongst our brethren, clerical and lay, and fervent prayer that God may grant us a happy celebration of the nativity of our blessed Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, I remain, my dear brethren,

Yours faithfully in the Lord,
CHAS. C. BROUGH,
Commissary Administering the Diocese.

London, Dec. 5th, 1864.

To the Editor of the 'Huron Signal'

SIR,—Through the medium of your columns, I beg to be permitted to make the following suggestion to the Trustees of the Common Schools of this town:

That on engaging a teacher who has not a certificate of qualification from our County Board or from the Normal School, it should be considered a *sine qua non* to the engagement, that he (the teacher) obtain a certificate of a *specified* class at the *next* meeting of the Board of Examiners.

Whatever may be the antecedents of a teacher, it must be satisfactory to the ratepayers to know that they are paying one who is legally qualified. Besides, the standard of qualification has of late been considerably raised by County Boards. Many teachers who could formerly obtain with ease a first class certificate, can now only obtain a second class one "by the skin of their teeth."—Therefore, by accepting an effete certificate from another County, without the stipulation to which I have referred, it is possible that the trustees are engaging an inferior man, when the services of a better may be at their disposal.

My attention has been drawn to this subject by the fact of our trustees having, on the 1st inst., engaged a teacher for one year (who is not legally qualified in the County of Huron) without binding him to pass a first class examination at the next meeting of the Board of Examiners, which I believe takes place on or about the 28th of this month.

Let it not, however, be supposed that I direct my remarks to this particular case. I am altogether unacquainted with the person engaged.

It is the opinion of the ratepayers to whom I have spoken on the point in question that there ought to be a general rule in the matter, and that the rule should be rigidly observed.

A RATEPAYER.

Ribbonism in Ashfield and Wawanosh

We give for what it is worth a rumor current in this neighbourhood that several bodies of Ribbonmen have been formed in the townships of Ashfield and Wawanosh, and that the members are undergoing a regular course of training. We would be sorry to agitate the public mind unnecessarily, but we feel it to be our duty to mention the story as told us by several inhabitants of the townships in question. *They*, at least, seem to believe that there is some good foundation for it.

BLACKWOOD'S MAGAZINE.

The current number of *Maga* has been forwarded to this office by the enterprising publishers Messrs. Scott & Co., N. Y. We need only say that it is just as good as its predecessors, and that every article in it may be read with interest and profit. As this is the time of year for renewing subscriptions for the four British Reviews and Blackwood, we would urge upon those of our readers who can afford it the necessity of securing for themselves a perusal of those sterling periodicals. To clergymen, lawyers, teachers, legislators, and thinking men generally they are almost indispensable. In fact we know of no intelligent person who has accustomed himself to them that would not make any reasonable sacrifice rather than be without the means they afford him of keeping pace with the age in the departments of arts, science and literature. The books that cost only $10.00 in this country cannot be had for less than $30 or $35 in Britain. They are within the reach of thousands of British Canadians who have hitherto deprived themselves of a lasting pleasure. Orders may be handed in at this office.

☞ Hon. Mr. McGee spoke in Montreal on the 7th against the secret societies of Toronto, and remarked that a proper exercise of power on the part of the authorities would soon put a stop to their operations.

On Tobacco Smoking in England and Germany.

The next count in this indictment is directed against that inordinate smoking, which, besides any influence it may have on the health, carries away so much of the working power of the German people. Behold at the station that grave personage examining your luggage-ticket as minutely and slowly as if he had never seen such a thing before—his ostensible function, for which his government pays him, is to transact the business of his department; but he has a primary duty absorbing the better part of his attention and capacity, in the charge and tending of that gigantic pipe of his. Keeping its machinery in order and preserving its vitality is almost as serious a piece of engineer work as the taking charge of a small steam-engine. It is an object of the deepest anxiety and apprehension as well as of trouble, and should it expire, there is no duty in life so important as not to be postponed to that of restoring its vitality. With us chronic smoking is extremely rare. The gentleman smoker takes his cigar after breakfast or after dinner, and is done; and so the working man with his pipe. Much nonsense is talked about the perniciousness to health of smoking. I believe that practised moderately it does no injury, and that to some constitutions it is beneficial.—But no one will have the face to stand up and say that it is good to smoke for fourteen hours of the day—for every minute when he is not either asleep or eating, like our frosty friend there.

And yet he and his practice might give a hint to our legislators to do a good turn to the working man of Britain. The German peasant and the mechanic, though he indulges in too much of it, yet smokes like a gentleman by reason of the cheapness with him of good tobacco. Thus he escapes the filthy deleterious practices by which our working people try to make their bad expensive article go far. In the first place the British workman purchases his tobacco of the coarsest, most pungent, and acrid kind. What a confirmed smoker in despair might not be induced to do to get at his darling narcotic it would be perilous to predict; but it would be a strait indeed that would drive the Bavarian or the Prussian to submit to the English pigtail. Nothing is so offensive to a cleanly smoker as the odour of old half-consumed tobacco; yet the poor man preserves the ashes of the old pipe to place them on the new supply lest he should lose a little of the trash he has paid so dear for. Then he absorbs it through that abomination the short cutty, which lets in the smoke hot and harsh, and with it gives an occasional taste of the oil of tobacco—a rank poison. The poor fellow could take three times as much of the mild and cleanly tobacco of the Germans without so much injury to his health. It is bad policy to drive people to sordid and