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The Carleton Place Herald,
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AT CARLETON PLACE, BY
JAMES POOLE,
EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR.
To whom all communications, remittances, &c.,
should be addressed.
Only One Dollar a Year.

ADVERTISEMENTS will be inserted at the following rates:—
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IMMENSE FRESHET.
GREAT DESTRUCTION OF BRIDGES AND OTHER PROPERTY.

The recent thaw caused an immense rush of water down the Grand River the past few days. On Saturday last the water commenced to rise very rapidly and continued to do so until Monday afternoon, when it had reached its highest pitch—which was some two feet higher than it had been for years before. At that time the jam of ice, timber, flood-trash, (including a saw), &c., &c., came over our upper dam, crashing against the saw mills of Messrs. McKinnon and Scott, doing but little damage to the former, but moving the latter some four or five feet out of its location, and completely destroying the circular and the machinery therein—the ice being piled up as high as the roof and completely filling the mill. It next struck the Caledonia Bridge, and completely swept away three arches of it and wrecked the remainder of the structure so badly that it is now completely worthless, although it had been repaired last season at a cost of over \$1,000 by Mr. Ryckman. Fragments of the Caledonia Bridge then struck the Seneca Bridge and completely destroyed the centre span, leaving it impassable and unfit for travel. The splendid new bridge at Cayuga was carried off on Friday last—at least all that portion of it lying west of the Island—so that there is only two bridges crossing the Grand River above Dunnville, in this county. The store-house of Mr. James Aldridge, in this village, was removed from its foundation and the wing of it (quite a large building) was taken down the river and crushed under the bridge. The lower part of the village of Seneca was completely inundated, so that a great many of the inhabitants were obliged to take refuge in the upper portions of their dwellings; and the bridge below the grist mill was completely drifted from the abutments, and is now afloat in the creek, where it was secured after great trouble. Such an amount of damage never before was done in this county at any one time, and all the losses and expenses were estimated at \$150,000 and \$200,000 and the latter \$250,000 and \$300,000.

DARING ESCAPE OF PRISONERS FROM THE LONDON JAIL.
It will be remembered that on January 20th last, two men, A. C. Dunn and John Whitman, were fully committed for trial for issuing counterfeit half dollars. The first-named prisoner Dunn was a resident of Chatham and kept store there. These men were confined in the London Jail and placed in the cells in usual manner, but on the night of the 5th inst., made one of the most extraordinary escapes that the records of the jail furnish. We will endeavor to describe to the reader, as clearly as possible, how this was effected.

The prisoners were locked up together in one cell for the night, at 6 o'clock on the evening of the 4th, and all the doors and approaches properly fastened. It should be stated that the cells in this part of the jail are six or seven in number. Each is secured with an iron door, which is fastened with a latch and a lock. This lock is moved by an apparatus which works from another room, and therefore no key could open it. The turnkey suggests that a piece of wood or other substance, must have been placed in the catch of the lock, which prevented the bolt from springing sufficiently forward to secure the door. Whether this was the case, or whether a confederate worked the apparatus and opened the cell door is not known. The latch could easily be lifted by the aid of a piece of wire pushed through the grating. On gaining access from the cell, the two prisoners found themselves in the day-room, and had to open another iron door which is fastened by a double lock. One of the men had a withered hand, which, it is supposed, was thrust through the grating and the lock opened by a skeleton key. How this key was procured, fitted to the lock, and used in the manner supposed, is another mystery. On opening this door the prisoners emerged into a passage, where another iron door leads to the jail yard. This door was likewise opened with a false key, where or how obtained forms further mystery. It is certain, however, that these three iron doors were opened, and that the prisoners were free to go to the jail yard. In the corner of the yard a new rope had been thrown over the wall by a confederate, and was found fastened on either side. By the aid of this rope, and the help of some projections which served as a foot-hold, both prisoners succeeded in scaling the wall and making good their escape. No one knows at what hour the escape took place. A turnkey, who sleeps in an adjoining passage, heard nothing. All he can tell is, that the prisoners were safely, as he thought placed in the cells at night, and in the morning they were gone! How the false keys were obtained, who, and how they helped them to escape—are all queries which are yet to be answered. The Sheriff informs us that he has no confidence in the security of the locks and fastenings of the cell and other doors, and has on several occasions applied to the County Council to have them examined, but that no attention has been paid to his request. The locks are of old construction, and it is possible may be defective. The escape of two criminals from the cells in the dead of the night, the unlocking of three iron doors, and the scaling of the outer prison wall, is one of the most daring escapes we remember to have heard of for a long time.

It should be mentioned that the prisoner Dunn was allowed to be out of jail for twenty-four hours on a few days since, and it is possible that his arrangements for the escape were then made. There can be no question but that the fellows were aided by active friends out of doors, and the safe escape of the 5th inst. was selected as a favorable occasion for the attempt.—London Free Press.

UNITED STATES:
THE GOVERNMENT OF THE MOB—
PREFERENCE FOR THE ENGLISH MODEL.
(FROM THE LEADER CORRESPONDENT.)
Washington March 5, 1861.

The enemies of democracy—using the word as the equivalent of popular government—are a rapidly increasing band. You may hear government by the people, as conducted by the United States, denounced as a failure on every hand. Native-born Americans are loud in its condemnation. They deride it as a failure in regard to economy—as a failure in relation to the laws of order and propriety which lie at the basis of society—as a failure on every point which enters into a comparison of the merits of Governmental forms. The despotism of the Czar of Russia is pronounced preferable to the despotism of the mob, as manifested under the modern working of American institutions. The alternative of a constitutional monarchy is declared desirable, as a relief from the republican working through universal suffrage. And these heterodox opinions are propounded in high political and private life—men of position, character, intelligence, wealth. They are propounded, too, with an openness that would occasion the stranger some surprise. In every group, almost, you meet at least one who does not hesitate to avow himself a monarchist, and to condemn the American experiment as a failure, and to prefer the despotism of the Czar to the despotism of the mob.

The closing scenes in the Senate Chamber, on Saturday and Sunday, have served to give these anti-democratic opinions unwelcome vent. From the commencement of the session, the galleries have been a recognized element in the House of Representatives. Members have addressed their appeals to the passions of the "gods" rather than to the reason of their colleagues; and the galleries have responded with hissing and applause, without hindrance or rebuke. For a time the Senate struggled to preserve its old decorum. When the galleries made themselves heard, they were cleared. But on Saturday, mob law asserted its supremacy over even Senators. And when the Vice-President, doing his duty, ordered the Sergeant-at-Arms to clear the galleries, the crowd rose to their feet and hurled three defiant cheers at senatorial authority. The history of legislative bodies records no more disgraceful occurrence. And it was repeated on Sunday. The Senators kept their seats, but by meeting for business or debate; and from opening to close, the galleries were a scene of well-kept ruffianism and disorder of a character that will never be forgotten by those who witnessed it. It was the mob version of "freedom of opinion." It was the mob idea of popular influence. It was the mob's own illustration of the excesses of the lawlessness and anarchy to which universal suffrage is rapidly tending.

It is said by persons who have just returned from England, that the secession movement, displaying as it does the failure of the American Union as originally formed, is a disaster for parliamentary reform. Mr. Bright and his friends are paralyzed by occurrences which upset their theories, and neutralize their arguments in behalf of unlimited suffrage. In reality, however, the disruption of the Union has less significance, in the connection with unbridled license of the multitude, as exemplified in the galleries, than the grossness and the local government of the large American cities.

The growing feeling in favor of monarchial institutions is traceable to two opposite causes, as it is manifested by two dissimilar classes of citizens. Southern politicians—such as Messrs. Stephens, Pickens, and others—by sentiment with the new confederacy—do not attempt to disguise their aversion to the widely extended suffrage and other ordinary forms of democratic rule. They insist that property is unsafe so long as it is exposed to legislation controlled by masses having no stake in the country. They contend that legislation which acts as a confiscation of property, must represent constituents themselves having property; that rulers having authority for wealth or power in all that pertains to social order, should be the agents of those interested in the maintenance of order, as distinguished from those who would reap the richest harvest during periods of general anarchy. These southern conservatives avow, therefore, their anxiety to assimilate the government of the Cotton Confederacy to the institutions of England rather than to those who have their type in New York and their central illustration in Washington. On the other hand, the more intelligent opponents of secession admit the logical result of their interpretation of the federal union. They revive Alexander Hamilton's desire for "a strong government." They want a government powerful enough to hold together the States if necessary. And they confess, as De Toqueville pointed out long ago, that any interpretation of the Union which recognizes state sovereignty, is incompatible with the forcible retention of state allegiance. Hence, federation pure and simple favors a form of federal authority, more akin to monarchy than to the principles of which Washington and Madison, and Jefferson have been received expositors.

Altogether, there has been no such upheaving of political principles—no such conflict of ideas pertaining to government, theory and practice—since the first French revolution. And as matters stand, there is a good ground for fearing that now, as then, the battle of principles and parties, of statesmen and demagogues, will be fought in blood.

A notable instance of the Southern disposition to abandon the American for the English model is afforded by the Provisional Government upon a Congress at Montgomery. The principle of ministerial responsibility has been there introduced. The Cabinet advisers of President Davis are members of the Southern Congress—at once occupying seats in the Legislature and discharging duty at the heads of departments. Whether this system will be introduced into the permanent form does not appear. But it is commented upon favorably by Southern journals and politicians. The Mobile Register the other day had an article upon the subject, in which the doctrine of direct ministerial responsibility was sustained with great force. The editor of the Register, Mr. Forsyth, is one of the Commissioners delegated by the Montgomery Government of President Lincoln, and his views have great weight with a large body of the Southern people. He maintains the Presidential term should be largely extended, and that the members of the Cabinet should be removable upon a declaration of want of confidence by Congress. The Register's article has given birth to a good deal of remarks among politicians remaining in Washington, and its conclusions are accepted to an extent for which I was not prepared.

Maryland and Virginia are the only Slave States from which secession to the Lincoln Government has yet been received. For the most part, their harmonious with the view lastly expressed in my letter last night. They regard the sentiments embodied in the address as indicative of a determination to resort to coercion; and neither in Maryland nor Virginia is there a journal which contends that coercion implies right, but war. Here, so far as I can judge, the conviction is universal, that trouble can be deferred no longer. All parties seem to anticipate a collision, and, once begun, none can forestall the evil. The Washingtonians proper, having oscillated between hope and fear all the winter, have subsided into despondency. Meanwhile, the expected contest between the two sections of republicans has not occurred. Mr. Compromise Seward and Mr. No-Surrender Greeley both profess to be satisfied with Mr. Lincoln's position.

Citizens of Minnesota, arrived within the last few days, represent the position of the State as alarming. The probable withdrawal of the remaining troops from frontier. An Indian agent tells me that the tribes are dissatisfied, and that, in the absence of troops, they will pounce upon the frontier settlement. Instead of coercing Mississippi, the people of Minnesota will have need of all their strength to protect their homesteads from the desolation and horrors of Indian warfare.

THE BABY BOATS.

The Government are still in the steamboat trade. It will be remembered that last session they distinctly assured the House that they were to sell the boats they had bought from Mr. Baby, and that they would have no difficulty in disposing of them for a larger sum than they had paid to Baby, who, in innocent that he was, had sold them to the Government at a sacrifice. Now, however, we learn from a French newspaper, which has been favored with a sight of advance sheets of the Public Works Report about to be issued, that Mr. Rose intimates that he could not sell to advantage, according to the promise made to the Legislature, the steamers purchased from Mr. Baby, and recommends that the service be carried on as last year. The Chief Commissioner admits that he has been unable to sell—precisely what Mr. Brown told him last May when he divided the House on the subject. And it is a pity that the Government should have been so deceived. 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