

THE HURON SIGNAL. FRIDAY, FEB. 23rd, 1883.

"'Tis for thy liberties we fight, Ontario, Ontario!"

OUR TICKET.

- FOR WEST HURON, COL. A. M. ROSS, FOR EAST HURON, MR. THOMAS GIBSON, FOR SOUTH HURON, MR. ARCHIBALD BISHOP.

A GOOD START.

We are glad to observe that the elections by acclamation resulted strongly in favor of the Mowat administration. But one Conservative has been successful while four Reform have been returned—four to one.

"UP, GUARDS, AND AT 'EM."

Electors of West Huron "Attention!" Before another issue of THE SIGNAL the fate of Ontario will have been decided for four years. See to it that your judgment does not fail you when the day of trial comes!

On the personal merits of the two candidates in West Huron a word or two may be said. Col. A. M. Ross, the trusted representative of the constituency since 1875, is a gentleman against whom the tongue of calumny or the finger of scorn cannot be pointed.

The aspirant for West Huron, Mr. F. W. Johnston, whose biography lately appeared in the Star, "revised and corrected," is well-known in the section.

The above are a few of the serviceable acts performed by Col. Ross in his capacity of public servant, and we hope to see the electors of West Huron rally around him on Tuesday next, and thus show him that they appreciate tried worth. Be sure and vote for Ross.

A GODERICH Tory lawyer was in Dungenon on Wednesday treating all hands to liquor, and waving a bundle of \$5 bills, exclaiming in a mandarin style: "I've lots of money, boys, and will have it while there's a mint at Ottawa. Lots of Money at Ottawa, boys. Let's have another drink." We wonder how he will feel when he becomes clothed and in his right mind.

pendence with the Tory reeves so as to "fish" for the nomination. THE SIGNAL discovered his little game and exposed it. So scathing were the articles on the question that Mr. Johnston, on the day of the meeting of the County Council, carried them around to the hotels where the Conservative reeves were staying, and claimed that he should be supported for the wardenship or he would be undone. His prayers and beseechings gained for him the sympathy of the caucus—which his abilities such as they were, never would have done—and when the ballot was taken he received the party vote, with one exception. Mr. Johnston now claims that he was elected because of his ability being recognized by his fellows in the County Council, and in so doing Mr. Johnston asserts what he knows to be untrue. The biography of Mr. Johnston had not then been written by the Free Press Ananias, and his imaginary abilities had not been heard of.

Now, electors of West Huron, you have the questions of the day and the rival candidates before you. You are conversant with the questions and you know the calibre of the men. The decision will be given by you on the 27th inst., and we confidently leave the matter in your hands, satisfied that the cause of good government will triumph, and that on the evening of that day Mowat's Government will have been sustained, and Col. Ross, the tried and true, will have been returned for West Huron by a large majority. Put in your best work from now until the evening of the 27th.

A GOOD RECORD.

There are few members of the Ontario House whose record as a legislator or whose actions as a thorough-going business man equal those of Col. Ross, the able representative of West Huron for the past eight years. A brief sketch of the various matters in which he has worked earnestly and well in the interest of the public may not be out of place.

In the distribution of the Municipal Loan Fund he succeeded in securing to the County of Huron, some \$84,000 more than was at first proposed to be given to it. In regard to the same distribution he was asked by the corporation of the town of Goderich to lend his aid in submitting the claims of the town to the Government, and so well did he work that he succeeded in getting a benefit to the town in the shape of a reduction of the municipal indebtedness, to the extent of \$38,000.

As member for West Huron he advocated and succeeded in having placed upon the statute book amendments to the jury law, by which over \$1,000 a year has been saved to the County of Huron, thus relieving the tax-payers to that extent. He introduced the Wire Fence Act, which has proved to be such a boon during the past winter, whenever adopted.

The Act enabling municipalities to invest in first mortgages on farm property, thus securing a safe and increased revenue from investments, was framed and introduced by Col. Ross.

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ORKSCREW'S "COLONIZATION ROADS."

The Opposition newspapers throughout the Province are bristling with the so-called "exposures" in connection with what they are pleased to term Lieut.-Governor Macdonald's "Corkscrew Brigade." The Opposition Candidate in this riding has only incidentally touched upon it at one or two meetings during the campaign, but Hon. John O'Donohue, who was not well posted on Provincial questions, alluded to it at the Kingsbridge meeting. He had the boldness to state that the liquors alone cost over \$500, but was bowled over by one of the audience, who proved that the liquor list cost only \$193.50. After being caught in a number of similar misstatements the Hon. John dropped the subject. But although Hon. Mr. O'Donohue knows when he "puts his foot in it," the Tory organs are not so canny, and as we remarked before, they bristle with the alleged particulars of the Lieut.-Governor's trip. In its last issue the Star asks for information regarding the trip, and publishes the following list to show that there must have been a "sound of revelry," et cetera on the occasion:

- 1800 "Henry Clay" cigars. 3 doz. V. O. brandy. 8 doz. claret. 4 doz. port. 3 cases champagne. 12 doz. Bass' ale. 6 corkscrews. 4 doz. Appollinaris. 2 doz. seltzers. 2 bottles lime juice. 2 bottles bitters. 4 doz. soda water.

The total cost of the above was \$193.50, but the Star, anxious to mislead its readers, places immediately under the list; "Cost of trip, \$5,486," and would convey the impression that the liquor bill footed up that amount.

Now, we would ask our readers,—Conservative as well as Reform—are the gentlemen of the Opposition not "kicking up just a little too much dust" about a matter of this kind? And the more especially when the liquor bill was paid out of the private funds of the Lieut.-Governor. No fault was ever before found with the expenditures incurred in official trips,—and under the Coalition regime official trips were numerous and expensive—but now we are told that the expenses in connection with an official trip are something that most be frowned down, and the frowning down should be the more emphatic when the liquor bill has been paid from the personal funds of the Lieut.-Governor. We admit that it would be preferable to carry on all official visits on purely temperance principles, but we can't for the life of us see that it is wrong for the Reform party to indulge in spirituous luxuries, while the Conservative party have the privilege of doing so with impunity.

If it was such a heinous crime for the Lieut.-Governor's party to take cigars, brandy, champagne, port, appollinaris water, seltzers, corkscrews, lime juice and soda water, to the value of \$193.50 when going upon an official trip to examine our northwest boundaries, what will our Conservative friends say to the bill of liquors supplied to Hon. John Carling's party in 1868 when the famous "Chicora trip" was had by the Coalition Government and its friends, and the entire expenditure was charged as having been incurred in the "surveying of colonization roads?" The "colonization roads" on the occasion must have been both dry and dusty during the junketing tour of Mr. Carling and his party, if the following liquor bill, which was worn to before the committee of the House by Hon. Frank Smith, (whose testimony neither Hon. John O'Donohue nor the Tory organs dare dispute) be taken as a criterion:

- 24 doz. of Sherry.....\$126.00. 7 doz. Hennessy brandy..... 63.00. 5 doz. Jules Robin brandy..... 45.00. 20 doz. Bass' ale..... 58.00. 16 doz. Guinness' porter..... 40.00. 3 1/2 gals. Old Rye..... 46.35. 11 doz. Gin..... 9.60. 3 doz. Scotch whisky..... 13.50.

- 34 doz. Port wine..... 31.50. 1 brl. ground sugar; (227 lbs.).. 27.24. 2 boxes lemon..... 19.00. 1 barrel..... 2.50. 2 packing cases..... 60. 1 doz. cutty pipes..... 1.75. 1 tmp tobacco (5 1/2 lbs.)..... 3.85. 14 boxes cigars (100 each)..... 42.00. Total..... 534.39.

In addition to the above, there were corks rews, bath towels, and everything else free at the Government expense. A brass band, a piper, a Toronto barber and a photographer accompanied the party and the expense of the entire junketing tour was charged to the item of "colonization roads."

We have already shown that the liquor bill of the so-called "Corkscrew brigade" was paid out of the pocket of Lieut.-Governor Macdonald; and now we ask the Star to inform its readers as to who paid the expenses incurred by the Tory Government when Hon. John Carling and his friends went on their celebrated "Chicora trip" in 1868.

A "CORRECT" ESTIMATE.

Even our Conservative contemporary, the Star, could not stomach the "taffy" which the Free Press, of London, piled on the Opposition candidate last week. True, it produced the article, and headed it "a correct estimate of Mr. F. W. Johnston," but it did not do so until it had made a few corrections in the statements of the Free Press. The London paper stated, when beslaving the Opposition candidate,

"His ability soon ensured him a lucrative and extensive practice, and he is now regarded as the leading lawyer of his section."

Shade of Blackstone! where wert thou when this libel on the profession was written? We are amazed at the broadness of the assertion. "The leading lawyer of his section," forsooth! When the Free Press makes an assertion it makes it mighty broad, and deep, and high, and sweeping, and so forth. And we laugh and hold our sides at the statement, and hold our sides and laugh. "The leading lawyer in his section! Oh my! oh my! Oh dear! oh dear! But our friend, the Star, comes to our relief, and garbles the quotation, so that when republished in the local Opposition organ it reads,

"His ability, soon ensured him a lucrative and extensive practice, and he is now regarded as one of the leading lawyers of his section."

Our local cotem wanted to be truthful, but the article was a heavy one to handle. So many falsehoods were placed in the half column of laudation of Mr. Johnston that it was almost a pity to garble it in part. It should have been either printed in full or not printed at all. The Star's partial treatment was not satisfactory, and only showed that it did not estimate the candidate as highly as the distant London journal, Josh Billings has recommended as a cure for a barking dog, that the tail be cut off, just behind the ears. If the Star had merely copied from the Free Press that the Opposition candidate was born in Goderich and still lived here, without putting in the swashy laudation of the Free Press, the people of the section would not have had such a good opportunity to laugh at Mr. Johnston's "cooked" biography during the past week.

It seems Judge Doyle's appointment is looked upon by the Opposition party in this section as a trump card. For some time past Mr. Johnston has been claiming the credit of having been the instrument in the appointment of Judge Doyle, but the wind was taken out of his sails completely on Tuesday evening last at Kingsbridge when Mr. Pat. Kelly claimed the honor of having secured the appointment of Judge Doyle. Now we care not who secured the appointment for Mr. Doyle, or whether to Mr. Kelly any of the credit is due; but what we do say is, the appointment was a good one, and we are glad it was made. It was a set-back to the Johnston faction in this section, and proved the inability of Mr. Johnston and his friends to keep a gentleman of the legal standing of Judge Doyle in the shade.

Let every temperance man and lover of morality, vote for COL. ROSS and the Crooks Act.

CHARITY BEGINS AT HOME.

Talking of the charitable acts of the Opposition candidate, what benevolent objects has he assisted during the course of his life? Has he founded any institutions of mercy? Has he endowed any schools or seminaries? Has he given largely to any of our churches? Has he aided the sick, given bread to the hungry, or comforted the afflicted? Has the sorrowing widow been fed, or the naked children clothed? These questions are brought to our mind by what the Conservative papers say of the Opposition candidate. Far be it from us to meddle with any man's method of benevolence, but when we are told by his organs that—

"His benevolent disposition has gained for him a well-merited distinction as the working man's friend and advocate, and he is a personal friend also to the poor of the town who are indebted to him for charity abundantly and unostentatiously shown towards them," We just want to know if these things are facts, and to learn with what port he has a philanthropist in our midst. All hail! thou benevolent one;—but first of all answer the questions that we ask at the beginning of this item, and if the answer be satisfactory we will not withhold from thee a just meed of praise.

A CHAPTER OF HISTORY.

In the fulsome biographical sketch of the Opposition candidate in West Huron, recently published in the London Free Press, we read, among other inaccuracies, that he "in 1879 received the nomination at the Conservative convention for the Local House, but generously yielded to Mr. P. Kelly." The statement is a lie of the most deliberate kind. Mr. Johnston did not receive the nomination of the convention, and Mr. Kelly was not the "second choice." Mr. Kelly was the first-class man on the occasion, but Mr. Johnston was an aspirant then as now, and he told the convention when his name was mentioned as a bogus candidate that he would work hand-in-hand with Mr. Kelly at the election of 1879, but that he would be a genuine candidate in 1883, and would expect Mr. Kelly to support him.

How well the present Opposition candidate supported Mr. Kelly was exemplified by the fact that in the municipalities where Mr. Johnston was supposed to have influence the vote for Mr. Kelly showed a woful decrease upon that given for Mr. Davison, (Mr. Johnston's partner), when he contested the riding at the election of 1875. Col. Ross had 87 majority against Mr. Davison; and against Mr. Kelly the figures were 414. In Goderich township, the hotbed of Toryism, which gave 101 against Ross when Davison contested West Huron, Kelly had a beggarly 39 to his credit, and in other municipalities where Mr. Johnston was supposed to have influence, owing to his active connection with a politico-religious institution, the vote fell off correspondingly. Mr. Kelly was a Roman Catholic, and despite Mr. Johnston's professions of religious liberality on the day of the convention, the figures go to show that Mr. Kelly did not receive the support from that gentleman and his friends that he ought to have expected from them.

The election of Mr. Ross in 1879, killed Mr. Kelly politically. It can easily be seen that the slaughter of the innocent in this instance would cause an inflation of the Johnston stock. Mr. Johnston although not a particularly gifted lawyer or brilliant speaker, is nevertheless no fool when his personal interests are at stake. He saw that if Kelly was killed politically that he could stand on the corpse and be raised higher. He knew that if Kelly succeeded in 1879 it would be a very difficult thing to force him from the field in 1883. These facts account for the "milk in the coconut," and give a clue to the manner in which Mr. Kelly was "sold" by the Conservative party in 1879. We have repeatedly heard Mr. Johnston charged with having made a stool-pigeon of Kelly, by bringing that gentleman out and afterward voting for Ross; and we have never heard him deny the soft impeachment. Of course he may deny it now, but his denial will not avail. The figures are against his denial in Goderich township and other townships where his peculiar element of strength lay.

We ask Mr. Kelly if he ever analyzed the Goderich township vote? We ask him to place his hand on his heart and deliberately state that he believes Mr. Johnston and his friends worked faithfully for him in 1879. Had a Catholic been the Reform candidate on that occasion he would have received the united support of the Liberal party; but unfortunately for him, he was duped by those who pretended to be his friends, betrayed by those who professed fidelity

to his cause, and sold "like a bullock at Smithfield," by the Conservative faction composed of Mr. Johnston and his friends, when the trial was held on the 5th of June, 1879.

Can it be possible Mr. Kelly does not see that he has been duped? It cannot. Mr. Kelly is a shrewd, far-seeing business man, and although not what the editor of the Mail would term a gentleman of "culchaw," has a large share of good common sense. Under these circumstances we call upon Mr. Kelly to come forth manfully on this occasion and measure out the political oats to Mr. Johnston in Mr. Johnston's own measure. Remember, Mr. Kelly, that which is fast passing into a tradition, "If a man deceives me once, that's his fault; if he deceives me a second time, then it's my fault."

Let us see! Was it not Mr. F. W. Johnston who said over at the Orange celebration at Saltford some years ago: "Gentlemen, I have placed my foot upon the lowest rung of the ladder of fame, and I am going to reach the top in spite of the devil and the Pope of Rome." Perhaps that is the reason he was so anxious to have the aid of Senator John O'Donohue.

In conversation with a friend and supporter of the Opposition candidate the other day, we heard a novel plea advanced for his election. It was this:—"He hasn't much business to attend to professionally, and has more time to devote to the interests of the public than Mr. Ross." Which opinion is rather a stunner when compared with the biographical sketch re-published in the Star from the London Free Press.

It is not true that Mr. Meredith has offered the position of Attorney-General in his proposed Cabinet to the Opposition candidate in West Huron. The only grounds for believing such a thing were furnished by the autobiography of the Aspirant which appeared in the Free Press on Thursday, Feb. 15, and was copied into the Star on the 16th. The Opposition candidate feels like kicking himself for allowing the absurdity to be published at all.

"Coming events cast their shadows before." It is not usual to speak otherwise but well of the dead; and looking at it in that light, we don't wonder at the Star republishing the "cooked" biography of the Opposition candidate from the London Free Press. The biography reads like an obituary, and when we read the goody-goody sketch we came to the conclusion that his days were numbered—politically. The Aspirant may survive his defeat on the 27th, but he will never recover from the effects of the half-column of fulsome swash which the Free Press bedaubed him with. Will some of his friends kindly tell the youth that the papers on his own side of the fence, politically, are laughing at him.

It is understood that an effort is to be made on the part of the Opposition in the present contest to bribe the electorate. The attempt has been made before in this county and failed, and we are of opinion that failure again awaits any advances in that direction. Nevertheless, it is well that the electors should be on their guard. Keep your eyes open that bribery in any of the sections may be detected. Form committees to ferret out any evidence of money changing hands during the next few weeks. You are each and every one of you bound to maintain the integrity of your polling sub-division. See to it that you do your duty in the premises. What is wanted in West Huron is a fair and untrammelled verdict.

We understand Mr. Johnston has developed a new method of endeavoring to catch the vote of the hotel-keepers. The old way won't work, and free trade in whiskey is at a discount. Last week, we are informed, Mr. Johnston was up north, and stopped at McCrae's hotel Kintail. While there he thought he would make an attempt to capture the innkeeper's vote and knowing that Mrs. McCrae had not entered largely into the consideration of political matters, began a round-about rignarole of the benefits that would accrue to the hotel-keepers if he were elected. Mrs. McCrae was informed that the ex-warden had discharged the license inspector, and that the next license would be granted on payment of \$16, if he were elected. Mrs. McCrae thought the yarn a little fishy, asked and received full information on the subject, and said old "Mac" won't vote for the "promising young man."

BETTING is not as general as at the June election, as the Conservatives are asking for large odds. We have not heard of any bets being made even money at less than 100 for Ross. A number of bets have been made even on 150 for Ross. 10 to 1 has been placed that Ross will be elected. A Saltford Tory has offered to make an even bet that Johnston will not be beaten by more than 414—Ross' majority over Kelly! He had been offered a bet that Ross would increase his majority over Davison, but declined it. MARK your ballot for Col. Ross on Tuesday next.