Huron Signal.

GODERICH, DEC. 27, 1866.

THE NOMINATIONS.

At ten o'clock this (Monday) morning, the nominations for the Mayoralty, and Reeve and Deputy Reeve, were heard in the Town Hall, before the Returning Officer, Mr. Jas. Thomson.

Mr. Gibbons proposed and Mr. Runciman seconded J. V. Detlor, Esq., as a candidate for the Mayoralty; and Mr. Hays proposed, seconded by Mr. Clifford, the nomination of C. Crabb, Esq. Mr. Platt was nominated by Mr. Leonard, seconded by Mr. J. C. McIntosh.

Dr. McDougall, seconded by Mr. Clifford, nominated Robt. Gibbons, Esq., as Reeve, and there being no opposition, he was declared duly elected.

Horace Horton, Esq., was nominated as Deputy Reeve, by Mr. Wm. Kay, seconded by Mr. VanEvery.

W. T. Hays, Esq., was nominated for the same office, by Mr. W. G. Smith, seconded by Mr. Crabb.

It being nearly 12 o'clock, the Clerk closed the meeting, and by request named 2 o'clock as the hour at which he would preside to hear the speeches of candidates. We will give particulars in our next.

COUNTIES' COUNCIL.

The Counties' Council of Huron and Bruce met in the Court House, Goderich, on Tuesday the 18th inst., at 4 o'clock, p. m., Robert Gibbons, Esq., Warden, in the chair. Members present, Messrs. Mellough, Dalton, Husay, Horton, Ford, Patton, McDonald, Leckie, R. Brown, Smillie, McMichael, Snell, Gibson, Perkins, Evans, Hays, A. Brown, Simpson, Sweet, Parsons, Sproat, Doig, Messer, Bishop, Creery, Currie, Helps, Kribs, Lumsden, Campbell, Wilson, McLellan, McKinnon, Fisher, McIntyre, Riter, Gillies, Dobbin, Pinkerton, Johnston, Martin, Millar, J. P. McIntyre, Rastall, Purvis, Wallace, Brocelbank, Ross and Adair.

The minutes of last meeting of Council were read and approved.

THE WARDEN'S ADDRESS.

The Warden then addressed the Council, saying that since they had last met a few things had occurred which he would lay before them. One of the most extraordinary was the payment of Sheriff McDonald's claim against the Counties by the Government and the retention of Clergy Reserve money as a set off against it. That claim would not have been refused by the Counties if the Sheriff could have shown that they were really responsible for the full amount demanded, although contracted many years ago. He thought the claimant should have been satisfied with the last offer made him, but he had applied to Government, which for some reason, just or unjust, had seen fit to stop their Clergy Reserves. In the regular course of law, had they been wrong in not allowing the full sum asked, surely the Court of Chancery could have compelled them to do right. Whether they intended to sit quietly under it was for them to consider. The gentlemen from the townships felt the wrong the deepest, and it was for them to remonstrate severely with the Government, if they desired to do so. The case of Hodgins vs the Corporation had been settled at last, and against the Counties. The township of McGillivray had made some extraordinary demands in reference to the refunding of non-resident taxes, &c., and threatened legal proceedings in case of non-compliance. With regard to the Maitland Bridge, a great many were anxious to know what was to be done. It was supposed that the timber would be got out for it this winter, and he thought it would be advisable that some action should be taken before any serious accident occurred, entailing loss of life and property, and, perhaps heavy loss upon the Counties. It was better to be sure than run risks by allowing the old bridge to stand too long. With reference to the Goderich Salt Well he was happy to say that it had proved a great success, and he thought the thousand dollars spent upon it by the Counties a good investment. They were now manufacturing 60 bbls per day of Salt which was declared by eminent scientific men to be the purest in America, if not in the world. (Applause.) This would be the last time of meeting their friends from Bruce. They had labored under many difficulties and hardships during past years, but he hoped they were now drawing to a close and that they were on the eve of prosperous times. (Applause.) It was their duty to settle with them fairly and amicably, and he believed it was the desire of every gentleman from Huron to adopt such a course. (Hear, hear.) They would now proceed upon the business that was or might be brought before them.

Moved by Mr Simpson, seconded by Mr. Gillies, That the Finance Committee be requested to investigate the matter of the Government witholding our Clergy reserves in lieu of a payment made by the Government to Sheriff McDonald—Referred to Finance Committee.

20 accounts were referred to Finance Committee.

Petition of R. Allan and others of the township of Hay, in favor of two deaf and dumb children, referred as above, as also Petition from Capt. Connor of Bayfield asking for aid in building a drill shed, motion by Mr Bishop for a grant of $200 for assisting in the erection of Exeter Drill Shed.

Several matters of minor importance were referred to Finance and other Committees.

Moved by Mr Gibson, seconded by Mr Messer, That the Gravel Road Committee take into consideration the propriety of granting a return ticket to parties passing through the various toll gates in the County of Huron and report thereon before the letting of the gates—referred to Gravel Road Committee.

Moved by Mr Bishop, seconded by Mr Sweet, That parties carrying milk to cheese factors through any of the toll gates in this County be exempt from paying toll, and that the engineer be instructed to make that provise—referred as above.

WEDNESDAY.

The Council met pursuant to adjournment. After routine

Petition was read from a number of the residents of Tukersmith, McKillop and Seaforth, complaining of the conduct of Peter Ramsay, Esq., as an acting magistrate and asking for his removal, when it was moved by Mr Sweet, seconded by Mr [illegible], That the petition against Peter [illegible], Esq., J. P. be referred to a committee, and that Ira Lewis, Esq., County Attorney, be called upon to explain matters, and that the committee be composed of 5 members. The committee on a ballot was declared to be Messrs. Bishop, Kribs, Lumsden, Evans and McMichael.

Moved by Mr Adair, seconded by Mr Bishop, That the Warden's committee be requested to investigate the method that at the instance of the Clerk of the Peace has been adopted in the selection of jurors for the year 1867, and report at this setting of Council—Carried.

Moved by Mr Patton, seconded by Mr Simpson, That as there are several drill sheds about to be erected throughout the County of Huron and as the Government grant is not sufficient to complete the same according to the Government plans or specifications.

Resolved, that in whatever municipality throughout the said County of Huron, where a drill shed may be built according to Government specifications and receive the Government grant the balance requisite to complete said sheds be borne by the County,—Referred to Finance Committee.

Moved by Mr Lumsden, seconded by Mr Campbell, That John Creaser, jr, Esq., of Owen Sound be paid an order held by him for $100 being the amount allowed R B Morgan for withdrawing a suit against the Bruce Gravel Road By-Law, the amount to be charged against the Bruce Gravel Road account—referred to finance committee.

Petition of W M Savage, Esq., relative to the construction of a number of freight cars by the County for the removal of the produce of this section, was read and filed.

Petition of Geo McIntosh, read and referred to finance committee, as were also 2 accounts.

Letter from the County Treasurer with statement of Bruce Debentures, was referred to the finance committee.

Moved by Mr Gibson, seconded by Mr Leckie, That the Warden and Clerk be instructed to communicate with the proper department asking on what grounds the Government paid a certain account claimed by Sheriff McDonald from these Counties, and under what authority the amount of said account was deducted, and retained from the municipalities' appropristions of the Clergy Reserve Fund, this Council being of opinion that the proceeding referred to was an illegal and very high-handed one on the part of the Government, this Council never having repudiated any just claims made against them—carried.

County Engineer's Report was read and referred to finance committee, together with Engineer's accounts.

Moved by Mr Bishop, seconded by Mr Doig, That the Clerk be instructed to advertise for tenders for the printing required by this Council for 1867, two solvent sureties being required for the due fulfilment of the contract by the successful party.

The County Treasurer was required on motion of Mr Lumsden to furnish a statement of the non-resident debentures, &c., for each municipality of Bruce.

The Engineer was instructed to examine the bridge on the boundary between Grey and Howick, and place it in a proper state of repair—carried.

THURSDAY.

The Council met pursuant to adjournment, the Warden in the chair.

Several accounts were referred.

Letter of County Treasurer in regard to sale of unpatented lands for taxes was read and referred to the finance committee.

Report of Engineer of Bruce on Roads and Bridges was referred to gravel road committee, Bruce.

Report of do on the gravel roads likewise—referred.

Report of the gravel road committee of Huron was read and adopted.

Moved by Mr Sproat, seconded by Mr Smillie, That the engineer be instructed to have the approach to the North of the bridge over the river on the London road near Bell's Mills fenced on each side for the purpose of keeping the snow on the road in the winter and for the protection of the travelling public, — Carried.

Moved by Mr Simpson, seconded by D Woods, That $9 be granted for repairs necessarily done on the boundary line between Hay and Stanley, the work having become absolutely necessary by the breakage of a bridge subsequent to the expenditure in full of the boundary line appropriation of 1866,—Lost on a division.

By-Law No. 12 to impose tolls on the County Roads was read and passed.

Moved by Mr. Leckie, seconded by Mr Gibson, That the clerk be instructed to furnish the Auctioneer letting the toll gates with a copy of Schedule of amended By-law respecting the collection of tolls in the County of Huron to be read by him to intending purchasers before such letting takes place—Carried.

Several minor matters were referred to committee.

FRIDAY.

The Council met pursuant to adjournment.

On motion of Mr Sproat Mr T Downey was allowed to address the Council with regard to his surityship for D Morgon, toll gate keeper,—referred to finance committee.

When it was moved by J. Whitehead, seconded by Mr Horton in amendment, That Wm Care's bill for $27.00 be paid for attendance at the time of the Fenian raid, as his services were of great importance at that time—Lost on a division by a majority of 7.

Moved further in amendment by Mr Gibson, seconded by Mr Doig, That Mr Care be allowed $17 in full of his account—Carried.

The report was then adopted.

Moved by Mr McMichael, seconded by Mr Hays, That the County engineer be and is hereby authorized to inspect and and make an estimate of how much money will be required to put the townline between Hullett and McKillop in a proper state of repair from the 6th and 7th concession to the rear of said township and report at next meeting of Council—Carried.

Moved by Mr Messer, seconded by Mr Patton, That a By-law be passed by this Council for the conveyance to Wm and Joseph Leach, that portion of the boundary line between the townships of Morris and Turnbury passing through their mill road as a description in accordance with the request of this Council has been complied with—Carried.

Moved by Mr Horton, seconded by Mr Hussy, That the County Engineer be instructed to prepare plans and specifications for a new superstructure for the Maitland Bridge at Goderich, to be submitted to this Council at the January meeting—Carried.

Moved by Mr Leckie, seconded by Mr Gibson, That the County Engineer be instructed to repair the Gravel road from Seaforth to Wroxeter as early as practicable in the Spring of 1867 by putting 5 inches of screened gravel from Seaforth to Walton, 4 inches from Walton to Ainleyville and three inches from Ainleyvill to Wroxeter, the present terminus of the G. R., the present system of repairs being insufficient for the amount of travel on said road, and that he be further instructed to employ an efficient person at certain seasons of the year to let off water and keep the road in proper order—Referred to the gravel road committee.

The following report of special committee appointed to investigate the charges brought against Peter Ramsey, Esq., J. P. was read and adopted :—

Your Committee beg leave to Report, that in the absence of more specific information, than has been laid before them, they do not feel warranted in making any recommendation, but whilst so declining to take action upon general complaints, we cannot refrain from expressing our conviction that some thing must be virtually wrong, either in the action of the bench, or of the people, or of both. We are induced to form this opinion not from common report (which is a rather doubtful source) but from the patent fact that on each return of audit of constables charges certified by justices of the peace, a most disproportionately large number of such accounts are presented from one neighborhood, and certified by one or two justices of the peace whose names we forbear to mention.

JOHN LUMSDEN, Chairman.

Moved by Mr Adair, seconded by Mr Whitehead, That the sum of $100 each be paid to the Warden, Clerk and Treasurer for extra services in consequence of the separation of the Counties

Report of the Warden's committee was read as follows, and adopted :—

Your Committee begs to report that they have ample grounds for believing that the clerk of the peace did transmit to several, probably to all the different selectors of jurors in these counties, requisition demanding that a certain number of jurors should be selected by them, also that he, the clerk of the peace, did inform said selectors, that they were each entitled to a fee of $4 as provided by statute.

Your Committee is sadly at a loss to find out, nay, even to imagine by what process the clerk of the Peace arrived at a satisfactory conclusion, or was unable to determine the exact number of jurors liable to serve from each Municipality, seeing that even with the aid of the assessment rolls, and with much local knowledge it is somewhat difficult to determine who are liable, or rather who are exempted or incapacitated from serving as jurors and wanting such information, it appears to us, an impossibility to fix on the number liable to serve. Further, we fail to discover wherein the clerk of peace is warranted in making such a requisition, much less in accompanying it with a threat of prosecution in the event of failure or neglect to satify his demands, which threat, is in process of being carried out in so far at least as that the selectors for the Village of Southampton have been served with a writ.

We view the action of the clerk of the peace as unwarrantable and difficult indeed of explanation, unless we take the scale of his fees into consideration.

Your committee further begs to say that on diligent search they have failed to discover any authority for a statutory allowance of $4 per day to local selectors of jurors and we believe that the clerk of the peace has interfered in this particular, without authority and in an uncalled for manner.

NINIAN WOODS, Chairman.

A committee of three members from each County having been appointed to consider matters in connection with the separation of the Counties—reported as follows :—

To take into consideration the financial matters of the County of Bruce in view of the approaching separation, consiting of Messrs. Wood, Bishop, Gibson, Brocoldbank, Rastall, Gillies and the Warden.

After due consideration we find that the only matter standing over is an account of $10,000 raised for the Volunteers at the June Session the proportion belonging to Bruce of that fund unexpended is $1438.22 which we recommend the County Treasurer to place to the credit of the County of Bruce. The Bruce special accounts being kept separately in the County Treasurer's Books we recommend the County Treasurer to pay over the balances of the assessments made for these accounts when collected to the Treasurer of the County of Bruce when the proper authority is given by the Council of that County.

All of which is respectfully submitted,
THOMAS GIBSON, Chairman.

Further on account of the separation being deferred a year later than was anticipated at the time of the agreement in October 1865 we would instruct the County Treasurer of Huron not to enforce the collection of the instalments agreed to be paid by the County Bruce on account of the Non Resident Taxes debentures on the 31st. of March 1867 and 1868.

Until one year after the dates named in the agreement, seeing that in the circumstances the County of Bruce has not had an opportunity to assess for these amounts.

All of which is respectfully submitted,
THOMAS GIBSON, Chairman.

The report of the finance committee was read and adopted.

SATURDAY

Moved by Mr. Brocelbank, seconded by T. Adair, That the County Treasurer be allowed to pay over to A. Sproat, Prov. Treasurer of Bruce the sum of $5000 to meet any expenditure that may arise in furnishing the County Buildings of Bruce, the same to be charged to the Bruce account.

Supplementary Gravel Road Report was read as follows :—

Referring to the motion of Mr. Leckie regarding the repairing of the Seaforth and Wroxeter Road, your Committee would recommend the matter to the favorable consideration of the Council at January meeting, as we consider that a quantity of screened gravel is the only way of putting the road in a passable state of repair.

JOHN MESSER, Chairman.

The Council then adjourned to meet again according to law.

DINNER TO THE BRUCE MEMBERS OF THE COUNTY COUNCIL.

On Friday evening last the Huron Reeves gave a parting dinner to the Bruce members ere they parted finally in a public capacity. The catering for the occasion was confided to Mr. John Donogh of the Albion, who although the notice was very short, contrived to get together all "the luxuries of the season," from a mammoth turkey to the nicest pickle. The dinner was got up in good style and excellently served, the only objection being that the dining room was a little too small. The guests present embraced nearly every member of the Counties Council, several of the County officials, Mayor Detlor, D. B. Ritchie, M. C. Cameron Esq. Mr. Alcock U. S. Consul at Paris, and other gentlemen.

Robert Gibbons Esq. Warden, occupied the chair, and Arch. Bishop Esq. of Usborne, the Vice-chair. On the removal of the cloth

The chairman proposed the loyal toasts of The Queen, Prince and Princess of Wales and the rest of the Royal Family, followed by The Governor General, all of which were loyally responded. to.

The President of the U. S. was then proposed which was received with "three times three." Mr. Alcock (who is a son of Gen. Alcock, consul at Goderich) responded, as the humble representative of a representative, thanking the company cordially for the honor done him on the occasion.

The Army and Navy, song by Mr Trainer, Red, White and Blue.

Col. Ritchie, on being called on, to respond, said he was afraid he was at present what is called a fire-side soldier, but the time was when he had taken up arms in defence of his country, a necessity which he trusted would not arise soon again. When the militia of the Province had only militiamen brought against them they had proved themselves more than a match for their opponents, but we had now a far better military organization, which would if called upon, be ready to meet any equal number of enemies in the field. (Cheers.)

The Volunteers, song by Mr. Adair.—'The Recruit.' Lieut. Col. Ross responded. He said this toast was frequently given early in the evening on such occasions as a matter of form, but when he remembered the noble grant of $10,000 by the Council in June last, he was satisfied the toast was meant in all sincerity. There was a time when a company of volunteers was looked upon by village boys pretty much as they regarded a circus, but they had now from 25,000 to 30,000 volunteers, to serve as the nucleus of an army in case of invasion. (Applause.) The country should be at all times prepared and ready, should it unfortunately, be brought into contact with its powerful neighbor. A horde of ruffians had invaded their shores in June last, and they were still threatened, but the Fenians knew by past experience that the people of Canada were determined neither the "sun-burst" flag nor any other banner than their own should wave over them. (Cheers.)

The Chairman, in proposing, "Our Guests from the County of Bruce," said in looking over the company, composed as it was mainly of a body larger than any of its kind in the Province, he was reminded of the time in 1853 when the County of Bruce sent only a reeve and deputy-reeve, the latter of whom was sent home on account of defective credentials. That County now sent 31 members, gentlemen who had displayed the greatest amount of talent at the board. If they had not beaten the Huron reeves, they had certainly equalled them in every respect. They were preparing Bruce for what it was intended for—one of the finest counties in Upper Canada. (Applause.) In their intercourse the desire had always been to lay the foundation of future friendship, and he believed they had succeeded. (Applause.) Bruce had entered into great schemes of internal improvement, but he felt satisfied that by careful management they would tend to the advancement of the interests of the County. He rejoiced that the separation had been so quietly and satisfactorily arranged, and he would now call upon the Huron members to join him in a bumpir to the future prosperity of their Guests.

Song by Mr. Gibson, "A man's a man for a' that."

Jas. Brocelbank, Esq., in response, desired to thank the reeves of Huron and the gentlemen of Goderich, who had treated them with such kind hospitality He could assure them that the spirit of friendship exhibited towards the members coming from Bruce, generally, had been a source of great pleasure, but on no occasion was the feeling deeper than at the present time. Although the connection of the Counties had involved the expenditure of large sums of money, it was a source of great satisfaction that all matters had been amicably settled, and that they could now meet together for the last time on terms of undiminished friendship. (Applause.) In some of their undertakings they had not been so successful as could have been desired, but their buildings were finished, and they hoped by the first of January to be a County by themselves. He might go on to speak of the progress the County of Bruce had made since its early settlement, but as the first municipal representative was present, he would leave that branch of the subject to him. (Applause.)

Mr. Rastall said that, as the first reeve sent from the County of Bruce, he had pleasure in stating that the reeves of Huron had always striven to do them justice, notwithstanding the heavy financial schemes in which they had been engaged. (Hear, hear.) This feeling was very general amongst the ratepayers of Bruce. The assistance rendered by the officers of the corporation was most valuable, and now that they were about to separate finally, they would, he felt confident, remain one in spirit. (Cheers.) They were identified in interests and were, no doubt, destined to be of great importance in this western section. He trusted Huron and Bruce would ever go hand in hand, in promoting their mutual interests. (Applause.)

Mr. Lumsden spoke of the municipal institutions of Canada, under which the representatives were supposed to be governed by the well-known wishes of the people, and when they again presented themselves, if they had not done their duty, they were pretty sure to be put to the right about. (Laughter.) He hoped Bruce would henceforth rival Huron in progress. She had copied her example in piling up a heavy debt—(laughter)—but he hoped the would be equally punctual and honorable in paying up. (Applause.)

Mr. Adair sang, "Be kind to auld Grannie."

Mr. Gillies spoke of the pleasure it had given him to meet with his Huron friends from year to year during the past 10 years, and he had always considered them amongst the best men alive. Their kindness would never beforgotten

The Vice-chairman then proposed, "The Agricultural, Commercial and Manufacturing interests of Huron and Bruce."

Dr. Woods responded briefly in his usual racy manner.

Mr. Detlor, on being called upon, said he came there more to meet the friends who were leaving them than to make a long speech. He had had the honor of being associated for some years with the gentlemen from Bruce, and he had always found them acting as a balance of power against the local feelings which at one time ran so high in this county. Mr. Whitehead, although generally very honorable, was a great stickler for Clinton, and his friend the Dr. was just as keen for the Bayfield section, but the disinterested kindness of the Bruce men had done much towards allaying such feelings. (Applause.) As an old man, he would advise those who were now about to separate from us to act for their County as a whole, honorably, rather than cultivate too great a spirit of selfishness. (Hear, hear.) Mr. D. went on to speak of the necessity, in regard to the interests mentioned in the toast, of developing to the utmost the great resources of the country, to which the Salt discovery at Goderich had just added so largely, and he would take the opportunity of thanking them for the handsome gift of money they had made to assist an enterprise of so much importance. (Applause.) He also spoke of British America, free and united as the future home of a great nation, blessed with an energetic population, material prosperity and civil and religious liberty. The speaker was listened to attentively and repeatedly applauded.

The next toast was, "The Separation of the Counties—may it tend to the prosperity of each."

T. Gibson, Esq., of Bruce, responded in his usual eloquent style, but we regret that his position at the far end of the room prevented us from reporting his remarks with sufficient clearness to enable us to put them in print.

Mr. Adair sang "Castles in the Air" in his own inimitable style.

"The Bar" was proposed. Mr. Gillies sang The Cameron men, and M. C. Cameron, Esq., responded briefly.

Mr. W. T. Cox responded to the toast of "The Press."

The Vice-Chairman proposed, D. B. Ritchie, Esq., our late Clerk, and the oldest Reeve at the Board. Mr. Ritchie responded, recounting the trials they had to undergo in past years, and bearing testimony to the assistance he had always received in the discharge of his duties.

In proposing the toast of the County officials" the vice-chairman spoke of the treasurer as a hard-working, accurate and reliable man, who deserved to take a deep personal interest in his work. He also complimented Mr. Adamson very highly, as a first-rate clerk.

Mr. Adamson responded, saying the vice-chairman had alluded to him in too flattering terms, but it was and would be his endeavor to advance the interests of the County to the best of his ability while he held office.

Mr. Ross responded in similar terms.

"The County officials of Bruce" was responded to by Mr. Gould, County Clerk, in an able manner.

Mr. Sproat proposed the "Ladies," and Messrs. John Gillies, D Patton and R Brown responded.

Mr. Gillies proposed the health of their chairman, the Warden, and Mr. Gibbons in response related his early experience in municipal life, since the time when he was elected a pathmaster.

Several other volunteer toasts followed, after which the company separated, having enjoyed a most pleasant evening.

THE COUNTY TOLL GATES.

The tolls on the Toll Gates of the County of Huron for 1867 were let in the Court House, on the 20th by G. M. Trueman, Esq. It will be seen by the following list of the parties getting the gates and the amounts to be paid are, in many cases higher than last year. The sale resulted thus :

		1867	1866
No. 1	London Rd., Jos. Webb,	$503	$510
2	" Ch. Crosbie	450	480
3	" Danl. Henly	300	320
4	" A. Knox	440	451
5	" Wm. Sloan	886	735
6	Clinton & Wing'n D Hargarty	1006	852
7	" T. Nicholson	836	856
8	" R. Brooks	625	650
9	" H. Hines	400	356
10	Bayfield Rd. E. Hackett	352	445
11	" Jas. Johnston	300	385
12	Mill Road A. Knox	576	560
13	Seaforth and Belmore road Thos. Knox	1405	1214
14	" E. Bennet	1451	1073
15	" N. Montgomery	1105	977
16	" Jas. Sharp	980	880
17	" A. McPherson	625	115
18	Usborne Rd. Not sold		201
19	" Not sold		—
		12,430	11507

Considering the changes made, which have been secured to the great advantage of the back farmers through the exertions of Mr. Gibson and other Reeves the prices to be paid are very good indeed.

The tolls to be collected under the new By-law are as follows :—

For every vehicle drawn by one horse 4cts, for every additional horse, drawing such vehicle 2cts, Every horse 2cts.—Every head of neat cattle 2cts each. Every single Sheep or Hog 1ct., and ½ct. for every additional sheep and hog.—Clergymen, Indians and persons taking milk to cheese factories to be exempt [Members of the press to pay toll as usual.]

Important, if true!

A Montreal dispatch to the New York *Herald*, says Sir Frederick Bruce has been instructed to inform the United States government that if Canada is invaded again by armed bodies of men from the United States, it will be considered an invasion by United States troops.—The above is given on the authority of the Canadian Cabinet.

A NEW VESSEL.

We are pleased to learn that Horace Horton, Esq., and the Messrs. Seymour have concluded an arrangement with Mr. Henry Marleton to build a vessel of 10,000 bushel capacity, to be ready for the spring trade. This will give employment through the winter to quite a number of mechanics. We wish the proprietors every success in their enterprise.

☞ By mistake we placed the names of four persons to Mr Detlor's requisition in last Semi-Weekly which should have been put upon that of Mr. Horton.—The matter has been explained to these gentlemen, and those who try to make capital out of it must be very hard up.

☞ Mayor Glass of London, who was in town a day or two ago fully concurs in our view of the defectiveness of the new Assessment Law, so do also the members of the County Council generally.

Maximilian to Romain

PROCLAMATION OF MAXIMILIAN.

New Orleans, Dec. 13, 1866.

The following proclamation was issued by Maximilian and promulgated in the city of Mexico on the 5th :—

Orizaba, Dec. 1, 1866.

Mexicans—Circumstances of great magnitude relating to the welfare of our country, and which increase in strength by our domestic difficulties, have produced in our mind the conviction that we ought to retain the power confided to us.

Our Ministers, by us convened, have given us their opinion that the welfare of Mexico still requires our presence at the head of affairs, and we have considered it our duty to accede to their request, announcing at the same time our intention to convoke a National Congress on the most ample and liberal basis, where all political parties can participate, and this Congress shall decide whether the Empire shall continue in future, and in case of assent shall assist in framing the fundamental laws to consolidate the public institutions of the country. To obtain this result our counsellors are at present engaged in devising the necessary means and at the same time arranging matters in such a manner that all parties may assist in an arrangement on that basis.

In the meantime, Mexicans, counting upon all without excluding any political class, we shall continue the work of regeneration with courage and constancy, having been placed in charge of your countrymen.

MAXIMILIAN.

THE MAYORALTY NOMINATION.

The nomination of Mayor for 1867, will take place in the Town Hall on Monday next. Of course the friends of Mr Detlor will be on hand to witness the proceedings. The canvas for Mr. D. is most encouraging and it is confidently believed he will be elected by a handsome majority.

☞ Mr. Wm G Smith possesses one of the most brilliant imaginations we have met with. He fancies he has written nearly everything that has appeared against Mr. Detlor, and it is very little to his credit if he did. His minute report from memory of the words he imagines Mr Detlor used many months ago, is the richest thing he has done yet. Don't stretch the thing too far William, or it will snap and let you run down like an eight-day clock. Your invitation to meet us "face to face," if we will "descend to vile and vulgar abuse" is respectfully declined.

A Gambler's Sister.

On Wednesday morning, a woman who was perfectly blind, and bore in her countenance the traces of long suffering, came into the police Court to testify against her husband, he having been arrested for maltreating her the night before. That she had been severely pounded was evident from the bruises and scars upon her face. At the same time there was a large gash upon her forehead, which, she explained, had been made by a whiskey bottle which her little boy had used as a weapon to defend his mother. The prisoner gave his name as John Morrissey, but his wife stated that it was Morris; that Morrissey had been her name, and that she was in fact the sister of the renowned pugilist, gambler, and Congressman elect, John Morrissey, of New York. She stated that about fourteen years ago she became the wife of Morris, and lived happy with him for some years. Six years ago, she became blind. About that time her husband commenced drinking, and since then had ceased to work, and has done nothing but abuse his family. In April, 1866, he was released from the State prison at Joliet, having served one year there for larceny, and has been at various times since an inmate of the Bridewell. The poor blind and ill treated woman has been, during all this time, dependent for support on the scanty earnings of her boy, who carries wood and coal, and does other light work, laboring like a little hero for the support of his mother.

On the night that Morris was arrested, the boy, witnessing the abuse of his mother, seized a bottle, and administered a blow with it which laid his brutal father out upon the floor. He then started for a policeman, and had him taken to the Armory. Morris was fined $10, and also sentenced to be imprisoned in Bridewell for thirty days. The poor woman thus obtained temporary relief from his persecutions, and it is to be hoped that, ere his release, she may receive assistance that will place her beyond his reach.

Her habitation is one of the lowest and most wretched hovels in the vicinity of the Armory and there she suffers from cold, hunger, and what is worse, the abuse of a drunken beast, while her brother, the millionaire, rolls in wealth, and his wife wears her tiara of diamonds. Last Sunday she had a letter written to the New York Clipper, calling Morrissey's attention to the fact of her destitution, though it is said she has already appealed to him in vain.—[N. Y. Paper.

The Russians in Central Asia.

The Russian Empire is in point of territory far ahead of all other countries of the world; its present area being nearly double that of China and nearly three times that of the United States, and it still continues to extend at a rapid rate. The independent tribes lining the southern frontier have gradually been absorbed, and China and Persia have had to cede provinces equal in extent to the largest States of Europe. During the last two or three years the advance of Russia in Central Asia has attracted particular attention. There is a country, inclosed by Russia, China, British India, and Persia, and known by the names of Turkestan, Turan, or Independent Tartary which is furnishing the most recent additions to Russian territory. It contains about one-fifth of the territory of the United States, with a nomadic population of only about 7,000,000, belonging to various tribes, and consists of the territory of the Turcomani, the little Khanate of Magmene, and the three more powerful Khanates of Khiva, Bokhara, Khokand. Intestine wars have been the chronic malady of these regions from time immemorial, and as regards their foreign relations, they were on the whole restricted to outrages against the few merchants and travellers who ventured to penetrate into the inhospitable land. For some time Russia has begun to gain a firm footing in this country. It has destroyed the Khanate of Khokand, the largest and most populous of the Khanates, embracing an area of more than 300,000 English square miles, and a population of about 3,000,000. Last year a considerable portion of the Khanate was formally annexed to Russia under the name of the Province of Turkestan. Recently the Russian papers inform us of the formal annexation of Tashkend, one of the most important cities of the country, which already numbers 100,000 inhabitants, and is rapidly becoming the greatest commercial city of Central Asia. The general expectation is that the remainder of Turkestan will be annexed in the course of a few years, and that thus Russia and England will be brought face to face in India. The growing power of Russia is one of the most important features in the political history of our century. There is this important difference between the annexed territories of Russia and the colonies of the other Great Powers of Europe, that most of the latter are sure in the course of time to resume their autonomy, while Russia will, without doubt, thoroughly absorb all the tribes of the annexed territory, and thus constitute one nationality, which, it can hardly be doubted, will be and remain the most powerful of the world.

Huron and Ontario Ship Canal.

The Boards of Trade of the cities of Chicago and Oswego are on a visit to Toronto with a view to matters connected with the construction of the Huron and Ontario ship canal, in which those cities all have a deep interest. Last evening the Board of Directors of the proposed ship canal gave a complimentary dinner, at the Queen's Hotel, to the visiting commercial boards, which was largely attended by the leading men of the city of Toronto, Lieutenant Governor Brass of Chicago gave the speech of the evening, in which he set forth the immense advantage the proposed Canal would be not only to the western peninsula of Canada, but also to the great west beyond our borders. He gave ample statistics to maintain his position, and his speech was received with great applause.

☞ "I should think that the men-of-war and gunboats would be overrun with rats and mice," said a little girl who had been reading the newspaper. "Why so?" asked her mother. "Because the paper says they have abolished the *cat* from the navy."

FROZEN OVER.—For the first time this season the Ottawa river in many places was frozen over on Friday night, on which occasion the cold was intense. On Saturday forenoon many persons indulged in skating on the river, of course near the banks, as in the centre the ice was so exceedingly thin that the weight of a child would have broken it up. A day or two more of such frost as visited us on Friday and Saturday will suffice to effectually bridge over every stream and inland lake in the country.

Massachusetts Factory Girls.

The Boston *Daily Evening Voice*, for Nov. 30 has an article on "Factory Girls," which shows that, while the manufacturing corporations "are making dividends to stockholders of from 20 to 100 per cent., the girls in the mills are sadly overworked, underfed and underpaid, and, at the same time, subjected to a rigor of discipline which admits of no relaxation until nature itself gives way."

Their average earnings are stated to be about one dollar a day, for which most of them toil 11 hours a day, although some mills have reduced, or are about to reduce, the time to ten hours. They pay for board $2.25 per week, to which, in Lowell, the factories add 50c. a week. Those who know what it costs to purchase provisions will not be surprised to be told that the boarding house keepers can scarcely make both ends meet; and to learn from "a Factory Girls" sheet, that we usually have for breakfast hard soup biscuit, a small piece of something called pie, and miserable tea." At such a price it is impossible that the food should be decently good. It is charged also, that the paint and floors in the room of the operatives are never washed, and they are allowed "only one clean sheet in two weeks, and two towels per week, for thirty-five borders," also "our gas is not turned on until a quarter before six, so that we have but three quarters of an hour to wash, put up our hair, do our chamber work, and eat breakfast."

Thus as to discipline, we are told "that everything is done by the tap of the bell. In the morning, "three taps of the bell are given for startling the engine; and in three minutes after, the yard gates are closed." This rule is so rigidly enforced, that "a few weeks ago a young woman, after walking two miles, was shut out because she reached the yard gate three minutes too late, and had to walk back, losing her day." During the day "no operative must leave the room in which she is employed, not even if the machinery stops," and no talking or reading is allowed. For violating rules, forfeiture of wages is the common penalty; and "two weeks notice must be given to leave, or two weeks' wages are not paid every week," as they are earned.

This is how the workwomen of Massachusetts are "protected" by the people who scream out for "protection to American industry," and call any one hard names who dares to oppose them. "Protection to American Industry," means sending to England for your machinery, half-starving and tyrannizing over your workmen and women, and declaring dividends of thirty, forty, fifty and a hundred per cent. per annum.

Fenian Finesse.

The Fenians in New York are constantly sending forth by telegraph trivial stories which only serve to keep the organization before the public. Thus seems to be the sole aim of the leaders, who find ready agents in the telegraph companies and newspapers. When truth fails them, a lively imagination inspires small falsehoods that are rapidly disseminated all over the country. Among these we class the following, which we find in American papers of Saturday :

"A new Irish torpedo, while being experimented by Fenian officers in this city yesterday, exploded, but caused no loss of life."

"An Irish pike, used at the Vinegar Hill fight, is here *en route* to the Paris Exhibition as a Fenian contribution."

Can There be Harm in Kissing.

The waters kiss the pebbly shore,
The winds all kiss the hills;
The sunbeams kiss the tulip bud
For the odor it distills.

The dewdrops kiss the rose at morn,
The cereus dew at eve;
And fern and flower in circling clasp
Their mystic beauties weave.

The moonbeams kiss the cloud at night,
The star gems kiss the sea;
While shadowy, dreamy, soft and light,
Are kissing on the lea.

The zephyrs kiss the budding pink
That blooms on beauty's lip;
And rudder blasts, though cold and chill,
Its ruby nectar sip.

The winds, the waves, the budding flowers,
The laughing, merry rills,
Are kissing all from morn to eve,
And clouds still kiss the hills.

Even heaven and earth do meet to kiss
Through tears of sparkling dew;
In kissing, then, can there be harm?
I don't think so—do you?

☞ What kind of ship has two masts and no captain?—A courtship.

☞ When is a sailor most like a thief?—when he takes a messmate's watch.

☞ Always lend a crutch to halting Hilility; but trip up, if you will, the suite of Pretention.

☞ Our friend, Dacey Greyling, is such an ardent angler that, when he can do nothing else, he fishes for a compliment.

☞ Something of rebellion lurks in the heart of the most submissive, something of mystery in the heart of the most prosaic.

A servant girl applied to a druggist a few days since for six pennyworth of the "glory of rhyme," (chloride of lime.)

☞ What city in France is a man about to visit when he goes to get married? He is going to Havre (have her). An old bachelor being asked the question, promptly replied—"To Rouen (ruin).

A lady asked a noted doctor if he did not think the small bonnets which the ladies wore had a tendency to produce congestion of the brain. "Oh, no," replied he; "ladies who have brains don's wear them."

☞ Man is like a snowball. Leave him lying in idleness against the sunny face of prosperity, and all the good that is in him melts like fresh butter in the dog days; but kick him round, and he gathers strength at every revolution.

☞ A woman being enjoined to try the effect of kindness on her husband, and being told that it would heap coals of fire on his head, replied that she had tried "bilin water," and it didn't do a bit of good.—She was rather doubtful about the efficacy of "coals."

☞ A story is told of Hallam, the historian. After a night of contradiction at Halland House with Lady of Halland, Luttrell, Sam Rogers, and Sydney Smith, Hallam retured to his house, his tongue still tipped with ready contradiction. "Past one o'clock," cried a watchman, loudly with a yawn. "No," cried Hallam, tartly and loud, throwing up the sash of his bedroom window, watch in hand, "it wants three minutes."

☞ The Richmond *Enquirer* is responsible for the statement that there is an old gentleman in Pocahantas county, who has on his hands the blood of twenty-one hundred deer, seventeen hundred of whom he shot with the gun. He has also been the death of many bears, panthers and other wild beasts.

My first is what lies at the door; my second is a kind of corn; my third is what nobody can do without, and my whole is one of the United States. Mai-ri-mony.

An economical family, of moderate size, can keep house in New York for from $5,000 to $10,000 a year—or they can live in suites of three rooms for $200 per week.

☞ The Prince Edward *Islander* notice in complimentary terms, the visit of the