which prevailed before expedition began the march against King Theodore, the resistance made by that monarch was absolutely ridiculous, and the difficulties of the road were found to disappear as readily as the human defenders of the country. No one, therefore, could have any doubt as to the fate of Ashantee and of its sovereign, with a name apparently taken from two languages, and indicative of objects from two of the kingdoms of nature—the vegetable and the mineral. King Coffee Calculi was doomed from the moment that he provoked European resistance to his lawless raids, and it was only a question how much sooner or later he would see his capital in the hands of Sir Garnet Wolseley. There appears now to be no reason to expect any long delay in bringing about that result. With less than three hundred white troops, aided by a couple of battalions of negroes with European drill, Sir Garnet completely repulsed the long invasion of the protected coast, by the most warlike and politic nation of Central Africa. It is true that he has not been able to follow up his victory by an advance, but he has perfectly tested the relative value of the two armies, and he knows that wherever his disciplined troops touch the barbarians, the latter melt away. The only real danger of the campaign is the climatic one. There is already some fever among the white men of the army, and it is improbable that the expedition can be brought to its conclusion without considerable suffering and some loss of life from this cause. But the nation which conquered in the deadly swamps of Burmah is not likely to be checked in a short campaign by the climate of Central Africa. Sir Garnet is a commander exactly fitting the occasion; for with plenty of fight in him, he also possesses that, of which some of our officers have not always appreciated the value—we mean a thorough acquaintance with military hygiene, and with the necessity of giving repose to troops who are to incur fatigue in malarious countries. The Fantee allies have not greatly distinguished themselves, but the Houssas make good soldiers, and we daresay the Fantees will soon do well under white leaders. At all events, when the regiments now ordered to the coast, shall arrive, nothing will save Coomassie and its King. The roads are being prepared for the march of the troops, and we may expect a campaign as short and decisive as that in Abyssinia.

The *Globe* says, when the elections took place in 1872 the Pacific intrigues were as yet a secret, except to the chief conspirators; the clue to the guilty purpose which had dictated the whole course of legislation under the control of the late Premier was then wanting. Now, the eyes of all men are opened, and the great sin stands broadly out in all its flagrant enormity; and it would be a base and craven race indeed that did not burn to record its indignant condemnation. We are quite aware the election law, as it now stands, is imperfect. It is probable that this fact may have some weight with the responsible advisers of the Executive; but whether that is the case or not, it must be recollected that it is not the law, but the scandalous and criminal violation of the law, as well as the most arbitrary exercise of powers existing under the law, that merits condemnation. No one can doubt that if Government were to advise a dissolution, every means would be taken that the existing law allows of, to prevent instead of encouraging electoral abuses. It was the open profligacy of the Government of the day, in disregarding all law and morality, that bore fruit in so corrupt a fashion in July and August, 1872. A controverted Elections Act now stands as a warning against a resort to corrupt influences; and there is nothing now to prevent the nomination and polling days all over the Dominion from being held on the same day, or very nearly so.

Such are a few of the considerations suggested by the rumours of a dissolution by which the minds of Opposition writers have for some days past been so greatly exercised. We are persuaded that an appeal to the country at the present moment would result in the return of a powerful majority in favour of an honest administration of public affairs. It would purge the House of Commons of many whose presence, so long as it continues, is a stigma upon the character of the Legislature. It would purify the political atmosphere, and prove to all corrupt politicians, now and hereafter, that when men in office disgrace themselves by base transactions, their punishment will be prompt and decisive. It would proclaim to the whole world that though Canadian Ministers have been corrupt, and though too many Canadian representatives were ready to condone the crime, the people at large are sound to the core, and jealous of the honour of their country.

Writing on the lottery question, the Montreal *Witness* says:—

That lotteries are fraudulent in their general features, immoral in their tendencies, and calculated to inveigle into ruinous venture the class of the population who are the least able to sacrifice their humble savings, seems to have been generally admitted since the most enlightened governments have prohibited them. In our Province our Legislature, unaware probable of the deceptions that were to be practiced under the veil of pious excuses, have allowed lotteries for charitable purposes as an exception to the general law against them, without any of the restrictions necessary to secure the public at least against outrageous imposition by securing all the profits to the purposes in whose aid the lotteries are advertised. We do not mean to say that any precautions would do away with the objections that honest people have to such means of raising money, but they would have to a certain degree lessened the evil and agreed more with the intentions of the law makers. Hardly a week or a day passes now without some scheme on a small or large scale by which people of a charitable disposition or with gambling tastes are taxed for some raffle or lottery under the pretence of charity, though generally but an insignificant fraction of the amount gathered goes, if at all, to any needy individual or institution.

CRUELTY TO ANIMALS.—On Thursday last, Christmas day, a large number of persons, we will not call sportsmen, went out into the common and kept up a continual fusilade with firearms, at what is known as "Turkey shooting". The unfortunate birds are tied, so that they cannot move, and placed in the snow, at a distance of one, two or three hundred yards where they have to "stand fire" until they are hit, which is often a considerable time—the other bipeds paying ten cents for a chance of each shot. Some of the poor creatures have to remain in this position during the discharge of twenty or thirty shots, during which time the feet and legs tied in the snow become frozen. There is, probably, little use in appealing to the humanity of these heartless men, who can enjoy such cruelty and call it sport! Sport, indeed, no sportsman would be guilty of such conduct. The wonder is that the Chief Constable did not interfere. Has he been neglecting his duty; or has he taken down the names of the parties with a view of bringing them up to answer under the Statute for the prevention of "cruelty to animals"? If amateur sportsmen or pot-hunters desire to shoot for turkeys, the better way would be to put the birds in the barn and give them a bag of corn; then chalk out the figure of the largest gobler on a target and blaze away at that. We throw out these few hints, trusting that the affair will not be allowed to pass over, without making an example of (at least) the individuals who were the means of getting up this cruel and unsportsman-like entertainment.

At a meeting of the American Iron and Steel Association held recently in Philadelphia a report was read by the Secretary setting forth the present condition of the iron trade. According to this report the restricted consumption following the high prices for iron of all descriptions which prevailed in 1872, and the forced subsidence at the close of the same year of the fever for building Western railroads, led to a decline of prices, which was further and greatly increased by the financial crisis of September last, At the beginning of November the quoted prices of raw and manufactured iron were almost as low as at the beginning of 1871, and every branch of manufactures dependent upon railroad patronage had almost wholly ceased. At that time fully one-third of the furnaces were out of blast, while most of the bar and rail mills that were running were working on short time. Thousands of iron workers are out of employment, while a large proportion of those still at work have accepted a reduction of wages averaging fifteen per cent. The mining of iron ore has sympathized with the prostration of the iron trade. Yet within the last three years the U. S. have exported no less than one hundred and sixty-eight locomotives to foreign countries, while the hardware trade of Canada forty-five per cent. is from the United States, and railway fastenings, door locks, springs, ties, curry combs, wire wares, tailors' shears, axes, and various descriptions of edge tools from this country find a sale in England so extensive that according to the London *Times*, American competition is beginning to be seriously felt in Birmingham and the South Staffordshire district. The same descriptions of goods are supplanting the English products in many foreign markets.

The conflict of Church and State still goes on in Prussia. An ordinance was officially promulgated, ordering that in future all bishops, upon their installation, shall swear to maintain the completest subordination to the State and cooperation in the suppression of all disloyal intrigues. Archbishop Ledochowski has declined to stand as a candidate for the Reichstag. Emperor William has had a slight attack of apoplexy, which causes much anxiety, and efforts are being made to conceal his condition. The Dutch have been extremely successful in their war with the Atchecenes. The latest announcements are to the effect that they have had an engagement with the Sultan's army, defeating it and occupying both banks of the river running through Atchecen, and that the Sultan, seeing total defeat inevitable, has given in his submission to the Dutch commander. Of the Ashantee war, we learn from dispatches that, although there had been a few skirmishes with the Ashantees, they were not of an important character, and the expedition was practically at a standstill, awaiting the arrival of the English regiments now on the way. The crew of the Sprite, which was preparing to sail from Woolwich for the Gold Coast, have deserted in a body, and her departure will be delayed one day. The King of Dahomey has joined the Ashantees. The fever continues among the British troops, and 100 invalids have been sent to St. Helena.

From England, we hear of the death of the Hon. Sir Gillery Pigott, Baron of the Exchequer. He was born at Oxford in 1813; and in 1836 married the only daughter of Thomas Drake, Esq., of Ashday Hall, near Halifax. He was called to the Bar at the Middle Temple in 1839; he was made Sergeant-at-law in 1856; and granted a patent of precedence in 1857. The deceased was Recorder of Hereford and went the Oxford circuit. In October, 1863, he was made a Baron of the Exchequer, and on that occasion knighted. Baron Pigott represented the town of Reading in the House of Commons in 1860 and the three following years.

SLANDER.—A venerable old man says: "Let the slanderer take comfort, it is only at fruit trees that thieves throw stones."

No man that tries to do his duty to his fellow man and endeavors to live to bear the fruits of true honesty in his daily conduct, can for a moment suppose that he will pass along through life without being slandered more or less. Such a man will of necessity have some enemies; and these enemies will try in every way to injure him, and among others they will not be slow in stirring up the polluted waters of defamation and slander. A man who has no enemies is merely a milk and water nothing. He who is anything, who makes his mark in the world, who is advancing in life, will have enemies, and if he have them he will be sure to be slandered. Let him take comfort in the reflection of the venerable man quoted above—"It is only at fruit trees that thieves throw stones." It is the custom in Africa for hunters when they have killed a poisonous snake to cut off its head and carefully bury it deep in the ground. A naked foot stepping on one of these fangs would be fatally injured. The poison would spread all through the system. This venom lasts a long time and is as deadly after the snake's death as before. Our cruel Indians used to dip the points of their arrows in this poison, so that if they made the least wound their victim would be sure to die. The snake's poison is in its teeth, but there is something quite as dangerous and much more common in communities, which has its poison in its tongue. Indeed your chances of escape from a serpent are much greater. The worst snakes usually glide away in fear at the approach of man, unless disturbed or attacked. But this creature whose poison lurks in its tongue, attacks without provocation and follows up its victim with untiring perseverance. I will tell you his name so that you will be able at all times to shun him. He is called slanderer. He poisons worse than a serpent. Often his venom strikes at the life of a whole family or neighborhood, destroying all peace and confidence. Like the assassin he approaches his victim from behind and, makes a sure stroke in the dark.

FIRE.—On Sunday morning last, about ten o'clock, the oat mill in this village was discovered to be on fire, and the alarm was promptly given when willing hands were seen speeding their way from all parts of the village, with pails, ladders, small engines, and every appliance that could be laid hold of for extinguishing the fire. A sharp battle ensued in which every one who could possibly do so worked with a will, and although the fire had made considerable headway, it had finally to succumb to the flood of water which was poured into the building. The village engine "Defiance" was promptly on the ground and worked for a considerable time until it got out of order. The nozzle is too large for, and out of proportion to, the capacity of the engine, so that its spout is weak. After working for some time one of the pistons gave way, which rendered it useless. About this time Caldwell's engine arrived but was frozen and could not be made available until after the fire was extinguished. Two small hand engines—one from this office and the other owned by Mr. Taylor—did good service, and threw an immense quantity of water in through the end windows of the building. After about an hour's hard work the fire was extinguished, having been confined to the lower flat where it must have commenced. The cause of the fire is not known, but it is supposed to have originated from a spark from a pipe falling in the dust where it may have smouldered for a long time before breaking out. Those small engines may be sneered at by some, but they are not at all to be despised, and in the absence of a large one, are, when well worked, capable of doing good service. We would strongly advise all who can afford to purchase one, to do so without delay, and keep it at all times full of water on their premises.

The Virginius has been duly surrendered, and the war cloud has finally vanished completely. The affair, however, has not been without its uses. The seizure of the Virginius followed close upon the panic, and made financial forebodings give way to patriotic anger and enthusiasm for redress. It was thus a counter-irritant applied just at the right moment to assist the country to recover from the results of the panic. It may be true that the fitting-out of war-steamers cost the nation over $4,000,000, but the money cannot be said to have been wasted though no war has followed. Many hundreds of workmen were employed in the navy yards just at the time when they most needed work, and the country has been taught the lesson that its navy must not again be permitted to fall into decay and decrepitude.

NOMINATIONS.

Carleton Place, Dec. 29, 1873.

FOR REEVE—John Graham, John Brown, William Bredin.

FOR COUNCILLORS—James L. Murphy, Almon S. Newman, William Taylor, John F. Cram, Dr. Wilson, James Morphy, Allan McDonald, John Gillies, Esqrs.

Beckwith, For REEVE—James Conn, Donald Carmichael, Arch. Dewar.

COUNCILLORS—John Stewart, 2nd Con., Daniel McCuan, Alex. Ferguson, Alex Stewart, merchant, James Leech.

Ramsay, For REEVE—Daniel Drummond, Clayton, Albert Teskey, Appleton.

COUNCILLORS—Joseph McCreery, Peter Drummond, David Snodden, John Houston, James Black, Ozias Banning, Clayton.

Almonte, REEVE—Joseph Jamieson.

COUNCILLORS,—Peter McArthur, J. P. Stevens, William Barnett, John McGuire, Dr. Patterson, John Booth, George O'Brien.

Pakenham,—For REEVE, Young Scott, Esq., elected by acclamation.

COUNCILLORS,—William Lowe, John Steen, James Woods, William McKibbon, John O'Neill and Allan Carswell.

COUNTY OF LANARK TEACHERS' INSTITUTE.

MR. EDITOR,—With your kind permission, I wish through the medium of your valuable paper to call the attention of my fellow Teachers throughout the County to the able and exhaustive series of lectures to be delivered by Dr. Sangster, before the Teachers' Institute in Perth, on the 21st and 22nd of January next. The Doctor's name is already so well known, that the very fact of his being present will no doubt secure a very large attendance. But as the lectures in question are doubtless replete with instruction of the very highest importance to the vast majority of our Teachers, I will take the liberty of presenting a brief sketch of the Dr.'s professional career, in order that all may know how thoroughly qualified he is for imparting the very instruction which most of our teachers so much require, to make them fully competent for their responsible and arduous calling.

Nearly thirty years ago the Dr. graduated in our Provincial Normal School, at a comparatively early age, and so great was his aptitude for teaching that he was at once employed as second master in the Model School.—Here his capacity as a teacher became so apparent, that he was chosen as head Master of the Hamilton Central School, when established, and through his superior organizing skill and practical ability in the art of teaching, he very soon placed the Hamilton School at the head of that class of institutions.

We next find him entering the Normal School as Ormiston's successor, a position, when we consider Dr. Ormiston's immense popularity, which required great self-reliance, and the greatest ability in the art of teaching. And as evidence of the success with which he filled the second Chair in the Normal School, it is only necessary to mention that he was appointed head master of that Institution, after the death of the lamented T. J. Robertson, M. A., who had for many years occupied that responsible position; and it is but a just tribute of praise to the Dr. to say that he fully maintained the high reputation of the Normal School during the whole period of his principalship.

Since he resigned the Principal Chair in the Normal School, he has visited many parts of the United States, and now he is prepared to give the teachers of our fair Province the benefit of more than twenty-five years successful experience in conducting the very Institutions in which the true art of teaching is acquired; and not only do they get the benefit of his long and valuable practical experience, but also that of his extensive reading, and professional observation.

Add to all these the high econiums with which the press has everywhere greeted his lectures, and I feel confident that there are but few teachers in the county who will miss an opportunity of learning so much that is absolutely essential to their profession, for a very trifling expenditure of time and money. In short I feel satisfied that the teachers who attend will find the two days to which I have referred, pre-eminently the two best days they have ever spent in acquiring the art of real success in their profession.

In conclusion, Mr. Editor, I fondly trust our county will gloriously maintain its long established and high rank in genuine intelligence and literary advancement.

J. F. MACNAB.

Carleton Place, Dec. 26th, 1873.

LOTTERIES.

BY ROBERT SHIELDS, MINISTER OF THE GOSPEL, RAMSAY.

There seems to be some difference of opinion in regard to lotteries. Some persons think them perfectly right; some, that the only wrong about them is the cheating that is sometimes done; while others consider them wrong, both in principle and practice. It is worth while to examine the matter carefully, for if the law forbidding them is unjust, we ought not to break it but to use our best efforts to have it repealed. On the other hand, if the law is just it ought to be enforced by the magistrates and sustained by the moral power of the whole community.

I presume the great majority of those who have given the subject careful study, are convinced that the distribution of money or articles of value by lot is wrong. Many, perhaps, have never thought much about it. I wish as briefly as possible to give a few reasons why I hold this view.

First. It is a profanation of a divine ordinance. God instituted the lot for the purpose of deciding disputed cases, which can only be settled by appeal to Him, and by a direct interposition of His power. "The lot causeth contentions to cease, and parteth between the mighty." Any other use of it is unwarranted. Suppose a traveling Opera Troupe, were to advertise an entertainment in which they would administer the sacrament of the Lord's Supper, "just for fun," who would not feel that it was a piece of heaven daring profanity, and a wanton insult to every Christian Church? And ought not a the ordinances of God's worship to be used with becoming reverence, the lot among the rest?

Second. It manifests great irreverence. Sinners should address their Judge humbly. We should use His venerable name with fear and treat His ordinances with reverence. But is it becoming for us to ask the Most High to decide some trivial affair not worth a moment's thought? Even a heathen could say, "Let not a God interfere, unless it be worthy his nod." If two or three dozen of the dirty little boys on the streets of Ottawa, were to rush into the legislative halls and insist that Parliament should decide as to the ownership of some disputed marble, worth perhaps the sixth part of a cent, ought they not to be punished for their sauciness? But would such an action be anything like as preposterous, as it would be for us, and I were to ask God to decide by lot the arrangement of the pasteboard tickets in a pack of cards, or the ownership of blanks and prizes in a lottery? Perhaps some will say, we do not ask God to do anything about it, we leave it to be decided by chance. But who is "chance"? "The lot is cast into the lap; but the whole disposing thereof is of the Lord." Christ tells us that a sparrow shall not fall to the ground without our Heavenly Father. The idea that any event great or small happens beyond the control or without the direction of God, is not only false, but exceedingly irreverent, and betrays lamentable ignorance of God's word. "By the breath of God frost is given" "For he saith to the snow, Be thou on the earth; likewise to the small rain," "And by him all things consist."

Third it is dishonest, and promotes dishonesty. An honest man is willing to sell his goods for what they are worth and to give the value thereof for what he buys. The vendor of lottery tickets proposes to sell a small number of prizes and a large number of blanks or articles of small value. He expects to lure people to buy tickets by the hope of winning a prize. For a large proportion of the tickets he sells he does not intend to give the value of the money he receives. In other words he expects to cheat the multitude and to pay a few to help him to cheat them. I do not think the man who gets up and disposes of a lottery scheme, can possibly be an honest man. The purchaser pays his money in the hope that he may win the prize; he too wants to get more than the worth of his money. Suppose I were to read somewhere an advertisement of a Gift Concert, or a Church Bazaar, or some other distribution by lot of the same kind, in which, by spending a few dollars, I would have a chance to draw a piano worth $300, or some other wonderful gift, and suppose that I were a big enough fool to expect to be successful, and invest in a ticket. If I draw a trifle worth less than I paid, will I not feel that I have made a foolish and wicked use of money God gave me? And if I get the coveted article, will not that piano in my parlor, be to me a perpetual reproach for my dishonesty? Will there not be in all its music an undertone of stolen! stolen! stolen! A man who has a conscience worth having can neither afford to win a prize, nor to loose his money in buying a blank. When a theft has been committed we all feel that those who aided the thief are partakers in his crime; so all who countenance a lottery are partakers in the dishonesty and meanness of the thief.

In closing these remarks, I may state, that I have no personal feeling against the promoters of any lottery scheme. I do not wish to wound the feelings of any person. I only claim the privilege of stating my convictions in regard to a practical question, and to contribute a few thoughts to the elucidation of it.

The Emperor William is now admitted to be alarmingly ill. At his age there is little reason to suppose that he will survive a serious illness of any sort. His death, however, will not seriously affect the German Empire. Bismarck still remains to rule in the name of the King; while the German people, who have at last after so many years achieved the unity of the fatherland, will not permit any successor of William to undo the work that has been done.

The wife of Alexander Agassiz, son of the late Prof. Agassiz, died on Wednesday last of pneumonia, superinduced by fatigue in her sympathetic attendance upon her father-in-law during his illness. Mrs. Agassiz was the daughter of the late G. R. Russell, and grand-daughter of the late Robert G. Shaw of Boston. She was a lady of remarkable worth and culture, and her genial presence will be missed from a wide social and literary circle.

The King of the Ashantees has the qualities which would make him eminently successful as an insurance agent. He recently sent word to the British commander that "he had heard that the forts at Cape Coast Castle and Elmina were in a very dirty condition, and wanted them cleansed and whitewashed, as he intended to inspect them." The check of the African may be dark, but that it is expansive there can be no question.

The twenty-ninth anniversary of the birth of the Princess of Wales was commemorated at Windsor in the usual manner. The bells of St. George's Chapel and of the parish church rang peals at intervals during the day, and salutes were fired in the Long Walk and at Fort Belvidere.

A public meeting was held recently at Exeter Hall, Mr. Roger Eykyn, M. P., in the chair, "to advocate the claims of all Post-office servants of the minor establishments of the General Post-office throughout the country to increased remuneration and the abolition of Sunday labour.

A society has been formed in Belgium for collecting waste paper and selling it for the profit of the Pope. The society has appealed to all possessors of "bad books, such as the works of Voltaire, Rousseau, Diderot, Volmey, and other detestable authors," to hand them over as waste paper.

The Earl of Roseberry has found a *protege* in a bootblack whom he saw at St. Vincent's Home for Friendless Boys, and has pledged himself to provide money for his education. If "Pat" doesn't "shine," eventually, he will be very ungrateful.

The Emperor William has had a slight attack of apoplexy. No immediate danger from the attack is apprehended, but the venerable Kaiser cannot, in the nature of things, long survive.

Chicago has a short treasurer. Only $250,000 minus. A mere drop in the bucket. His friends will doubtless cover the whole amount into the treasuay, and all will be serene again.

We direct the attention of our readers in this village and neighbourhood to the advertisement of a Skating Rink, fitted up by Messrs. Willis and Metcalf.

The newest house in Washington have the old-time hearth and open fire-place. It is a revival of a puritan fashion for the purpose of purifying the atmosphere.

☞ The Brass Seaboard lost, on the 12th July last, is found and the owner will please call for it at this office.

Our latest English fyles contain a very lengthy encyclical letter of the Pope, dated Nov. 21, in which His Holiness deplores, as usual, the melancholy condition of the Church, reviews church affairs in Germany and Switzerland; dubs Bishop Reinkens "a *pseudo* bishop, a certain notorious apostate from the Catholic faith," and excommunicates him and all who took part "in his election and sacrilegious consecration." The Pope adds:—

"From the facts, to which we have referred in brief rather than at large, you are well assured, venerable brethren, how grave and full of danger is the condition of Catholics in those countries of Europe which we have mentioned. Neither are matters more favorable or the times more peaceful in America, where countries are so hostile to Catholics that their governments seem rather to deny in deeds than to profess the Catholic faith. Some of you may perhaps be surprised, venerable brethern, that the war which is carried on at this time against the Catholic Church extends so far and wide. But whoever is acquainted with the character, the aims and purposes of the sects—be they Freemasons or by whatever name they are known—and compares them with the character and extent of the strife, which throughout nearly the whole world is waged against the church, cannot hesitate to assign the cause of our present calamities to the craft and conspiracy of the same sects. From them is made up the Synagogue of Satan, which marshalling its forces and preparing to engage hand to hand against the Church of Christ."

The Attorney General of the U. S. has rendered a perfectly plain and conclusive decision on the question of the right Virginius to carry the american flag. In pursuance of the Washington protocol by which the salute of reparation was to be remitted in case the Spanish Government should convince the Washington Government that the Virginius had no right to bear the flag, Admiral Polo presented a large amount of documentary evidence bearing upon that point, which was submitted by the Department of State to the Attorney General for his opinion. After examining this evidence Mr. Williams decides that the Virginius at the time of her registry and later was in part at least owned by Quesada, Mora, and other Cubans. Section 4 of the act of December 13, 1792, provides that to obtain the registry of a vessel the owner must swear that there is not a subject or citizen of foreign prince or State directly or indirectly interested in in such vessel or in its profits or issues. The Attorney General therefore argues that the nominal owner of the Virginius could not have obtained his registry without a false oath, and that the registry being thus vitiated by perjury, the Virginius cannot be deemed a vessel of the United States, or entitled to the benefits or privileges belonging to such vessels.

A Havana correspondent says that good negro field hands sell as low as $800, and they could not command anything like this price—which is about half the highest figure they ever have brought—but for the feeling that nothing will be done in the way of emancipation by the Spanish authorities. The number of coolies is increasing every week.

MORE ROBINSON CRUSOES.—The British exploring ship "Challenger" recently touched at the island of Tristan d'Acana, in the South Atlantic, and found two Germans living there, who were heartily tired of playing Robinson Crusoe, and gladly availed themselves of the opportunity of leaving.

BRITISH FORTIFICATIONS.—From a return just issued, it appears that during the last twelve years England has expended a sum equal to $32,646,989 upon coast fortifications, distributed for the most part at Portsmouth, Plymouth, Portland, Pembroke, Sheernees, Dover, Gravesend, Chatham, and Cork.

SUDDEN DEATH.—On Thursday evening last a party of two men and a boy left the hotel in Phillipsville, in the Township of Bastard, on foot for Harlem, a distance of three or four miles, where they resided. The men had been drinking freely, and each took home a bottle of liquor. One of them, by the name of William Gamford, a shoemaker, it appears went to his shop late in the evening to remain over night, instead of going home, some distance away.

In the morning he was discovered by one of the neighbors lying with his face on the floor quite dead, having probably fallen from his chair, and smothered to death not having strength to rise. A coroner's jury was summoned on the following evening by Dr. Preston of Newborn, and a verdict was given in accordance with the facts, that the deceased came to his death by excessive drinking. —*Recorder.*

San Francisco, Dec. 23.—Advices from Tucson, Arizona, state that a terrible tragedy occurred Dec. 10 at Lincoln, New-Mexico. Constable Martin with a posse of men attempted to arrest David Warner, Mr. Herald, and J. L. Glynn, when Warner killed Martin. The Sheriff's posse then killed Warner, and the other two named were also found dead, riddled with bullets.

Gananoque, Dec. 24.—About noon today while Mrs. James Driscoll, her son and a daughter of Matthew Kane, of St. John's Island, were nearing Gananoque in a boat, they were obliged to try and haul the boat on the ice, and in doing so upset the boat, and all fell into the water. Some boys skating came to the rescue, but too late to save Miss Kane, aged seventeen years, who was drowned.

A sad feature of the Boston tea doings was a group of sentimentalists, who stood for an hour, in the chilling fog, looking contemplatively into the water off the wrong wharf.

One of the propositions which are to be submitted to the Georgia Constitutional Convention is a revival of imprisonment for debt. Progress takes backward jumps down there.

The tea party at Faneuil Hall on Tuesday, was the greatest tea-total affair of the age. The venerable Josiah Quincy, who presided, was grandson of the speaker at the Old South at the tea party famous gathering a hundred years ago.

THE TOPPING TRAGEDY

FULL PARTICULARS OF THE HORRIBLE DEED.

THE INQUEST.

Woodstock, Dec. 22.—Yesterday our usually quiet town was moved to a fearful state of excitement, by a report that Timothy Topping, a farmer, living in West Oxford, and known by nearly every person here, had killed his wife and four children, and then cut his own throat. The story was too appalling to be credited, and during the afternoon every "rig" that could be secured was brought into requisition, and hundreds visited the scene of crime to see and learn the particulars. The distance is eight miles from Woodstock and three from Sweaborg, on a ridge of land called "The Pines," of West Oxford. The land was formerly covered with pine timber, but apparently fire has run through it, and now nothing remains but pine stumps and half decayed timber. It is one of the roughest farms in the County. The house is frame and very uncomfortable. Topping is the youngest son of a large family by that name, was born near here, and is now about forty years of age. His wife was a daughter of the late Adam Dodge, who was one of the pioneer settlers of the township, and whose numerous brothers and sisters are settled in the neighborhood and in good circumstances. Topping sold an old cleared farm a few years ago, and moved farther south to the new place mentioned, hoping to better his circumstances, but, as he remarked to a friend lately, to whom he appealed for advice, "He was getting farther behind every year, and he was afraid his wife and family would yet come to beggary and starvation." He has two sons, about twenty to twenty-two years old, to whom he entrusted the work on the farm, and he attended to the duties of auctioneer, and once or twice as Assessor or Collector for the township. He belonged to a sect that believe, or, at least, profess to believe, that there is neither reward nor punishment beyond the grave. Hence, without the fear of God before his eyes, he felt it to be his duty to place his helpless wife and family beyond the possibility of starvation here, and his only regret now is that he failed to effect his purpose in killing two more, whom, he supposes, cannot provide for themselves. During the past week he was not absent from home, but seemed to be brooding over something that troubled him, and it is supposed he did not go to bed during the night. About six o'clock on Sunday morning, the three eldest sons, and a daughter, about seventeen years old, who was sleeping upstairs, were awakened by something; they supposed it was their mother, calling suddenly, "Boys!" and nothing more was heard by them, but on proceeding to the head of the stairs, they saw their father coming up with a knife in his hand, which they succeeded in wresting from him. In the meantime a boy of thirteen, who was to be his next victim, sprang down the ladder and ran down into the lane, followed by his father, who had caught up the axe and given chase, but, fortunately, for the boy, he was swifter of foot. Finding that the boy had escaped, and the other intending victim was guarded by her brothers, he drew the sharp edge of the axe across his own throat, and would have completed his bloody work, but the sons were too quick for him. Having snatched the axe away and secured his arms, he was placed in a chair and guarded by three constables, where he still sat when seen by me at four o'clock. His windpipe was cut so that he could not speak; but he employed himself all day in that bloody condition writing with a pencil. He expressed a desire to have a certain lawyer brought from Ingersoll to make his will. During the holding of the inquest in his presence, in reply to questions, he stated in writing that he was not sorry for what he had done, but regretted that he had failed to kill the other two; that he thought the two eldest could do for themselves and did not intend to touch them. Stout persons sickened at the sight of the horrible crime before them and begged others not to look upon a scene they never would forget. In one corner of the room stands a beadstead, on which the two murdered girls were left by the brutal father, having driven the sharp axe into the brain of each. On a trundle bed lay the two boys, the youngest, aged five, with his head severed from his body; the other, eleven years old, with is head half cut in two. In the adjoining room lay the wife, with her head so fearfully gashed that recognition even by her friends would be difficult. The most sickening sight of all was the criminal, setting upright in a chair with his head clotted with blood, and all his clothes saturated, a hole so large in his throat that the cavity of the windpipe was discernable. His breath escaped through the aperture, and articulation was impossible. A large number of doctors were in attendance, and when I left were proceeding to sew up the gap, with some confidence of saving life: Great sympathy is felt for the connections of the wretched family who are industrious and respectable.

THE WEEK OF PRAYER.

AN ORDER OF EXERCISES ISSUED BY THE AMERICAN EVANGELICAL ALLIANCE.

The American Evangelical Alliance has prepared the following order of religious exercises for the "Week of prayer," and recommends its observance to the Evangelical Churches throughout the United States:

Sunday Jan. 4.—Sermons: The unity of the Christian Church; the real oneness of all Christian believers; hindrances and motives to union; the blessings to be hoped for from the union of believers in prayer.

Monday, Jan. 5.—Confession; our common unworthiness and guilt. Thanksgiving; for national, domestic, and personal mercies; temporal and spiritual. Supplication; for special blessings on the "Week of Prayer." Dan. ix., 7; Malachi iii., 10.

Tuesday, Jan. 6.—Prayer; for the Christian Church; for her increase in faith, holiness and love; for persecuted and suffering Christians; for Christian liberty; and for the more abundant outpouring of the Holy Spirit. Col. i., 9—11; Heb. xiii., 3.

Wednesday, Jan. 7.—Prayer for families, home and parental influence; sons and daughters; the absent, the sick, the erring; inmates of prisons; all educational institutions. Psalms, cxv., 12—14; cxiv., 12.

Thursday, Jan. 8.—Prayer for nations, for peace among men, for public virtue and righteousness, for the banishment of intemperance, dishonesty, infidelity, and superstition, and for the diffusion of pure and Christian literature. Isaiah, ix., 17—18.

Friday, Jan. 9.—Prayer; for the evangelization of all nominally Christian countries; for the conversion of Israel; for seamen; for missionaries; for the spread of the Gospel in Mohammedan and heathen countries; for the conversion of the world to Christ. Psalms lxviii., 31.

Saturday, Jan. 10.—Prayer; for the Christian ministry; for Sunday-schools; for revivals. Matt. ix., 38; Acts. iv., Hab. iii., 2.

Sunday, Jan. 11.—Sermons; Christ's Kingdom, universal and everlasting, Psalms xcvii., 1—2—and the results of the Sixth General Conference of the Evangelical Alliance.

Prescott, Dec. 25.—On the night of the 23rd inst. a man by the name of James Brimstone, a carter, belonging to this place, left Ogdensburg in a row boat for Prescott about 5:30 o'clock. It is said he was under the influence of liquor, and was not heard from till last night, when he was found fourteen miles below here, on the head of Presqu Isle, almost frozen, and his boat about a mile and a half from him. At last accounts he was unconscious, but it was thought he would recover.

MARRIED.

At the residence of the bride's brother, on the 24th inst., by the Rev. W. Ross, M. A., Mr. John Stephenson, of Mount Forrest, to Miss Lizzie Bannerman, Carleton Place.

DIED.

In Greenoch, Co. Bruce, on the 14th of November, Hans Hawthorne, in the 73rd year of his age. He was a native of the County Down, Ireland.

OTTAWA MARKETS.

Beef	4 50	@	5 15
Pork	5 50	@	5 75
Mutton, per lb	0 05	@	0 07
Veal, per lb	0 00	@	0 00
Fowls, per couple	0 50	@	0 60
Turkeys, each	0 60	@	2 00
Geese, each	0 40	@	0 80
Ducks, each	0 25	@	0 30
Feathers, per lb	0 00	@	0 00
Fowls feathers, per lb	0 25	@	0 30
Eggs, per doz	0 25	@	0 00
Butter, per lb	0 20	@	0 22
In prints, per lb	0 25	@	0 00
Potatoes,	0 30	@	0 40
Tomatoes	0 00	@	0 00
Onions, per bus	1 25	@	0 00
Turnips, per bus	0 35	@	0 00
Carrots, per bus	0 40	@	0 00
Parsnips	0 35	@	0 00
Hay, per ton	16 00	@	18 00
Oat Straw, per ton	7 00	@	0 00
Oats, per bus	0 35	@	0 37
Peas, per bus	0 60	@	0 60
Beans, per bus	1 50	@	0 00
Buckwheat, per bus	0 50	@	0 55

RENFREW MARKETS.

Wheat, Spring	$1 10	@	$1 20
" Fall	1 30	@	1 30
Oats	0 35	@	40
Peas	0 50	@	60
Beans	1 50	@	1 60
Flour	5 25	@	6 50
Butter, roll	0 15	@	0 20
" keg	0 15	@	0 20
Cheese	0 12½	@	0 00
Pork, Mess	18 00	@	19 00
" Prime Mess	14 00	@	17 00
Hogs, dressed	5 00	@	6 00
Hay	12 00	@	16 00
Eggs, per doz	0 12½	@	0 00
Apples, per bbl	3 00	@	4 00
Hardwood per cord	4 00	to	5 50

PEMBROKE MARKETS.

Flour, No. 1 per bbl	$ 7 00	to	$ 7 50
Do. do. in bags	6 25	to	6 75
Fall Wheat	1 35	to	1 40
Spring Wheat	1 30	to	1 35
Rye	0 70	to	0 00
Peas	0 60	to	0 70
Beans	1 50	to	1 60
Oats	0 40	to	0 45
Pork, Mess, per bbl	18 00	to	20 00
Prime Mess	16 00	to	17 00
Hay, per ton	14 00	to	16 00
Butter, per lb	0 17	to	0 20
Hides, per 100 lbs	5 00	to	5 50
Oatmeal	6 50	@	6 00
Cornmeal, bolted	5 00	@	5 00
Potatoes	0 45	@	0 50
Barley, per bus	0 00	@	0 00
Apples, per barrel	5 00	@	5 00
Cabbage	0 05	@	1 10
Wool	0 60	@	0 65
Peaches	4 06	@	4 00
Bears	18 00	@	24 00
Deers	6 00	@	10 00

LIST OF LETTERS remaining in the Carleton Place Post Office, Dec. 29th, 1873.

Anderson, Miss C.	McCallum, John J.
Blair, Geo.	McDonald, John
Bigford, H.	McDougall, Daniel
Bennet, Mrs. E.	McDonald, Mrs. C.
Brannagh, Miss A.	McDonald, Thos.
Bender, Edward	McFadden, Jas.
Colvin, Miss M. (3)	McGillivery, J. Jr.
Cameron, John	McGinnis, R. C.
Code Wm.	McIntosh, A.
Carlin, Mrs. M.	McLeod, Daniel
Carpenter, R.	McLellan, Donald
Conboy, Mrs. T.	McMaster, Robt.
Curryon, R.	McNeely, Wm.
Crawford, Geo.	Moffatt, Jas.
Cornett, Miss Mary