Guelph Evening Mercury

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Guelph, March 4, 1869. w o tf

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Guelph, December 1 dwly

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Guelph, April 1, 1868. daw

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Fergus, March 4, 1869. wo 2m

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Can have their wants supplied by sending their orders by mail. Their letters will receive prompt and careful attention.

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MERCURY OFFICE, GUELPH.

Evening Mercury.

SATURDAY EV'NG, MARCH 6, 1869.

Local and Miscellaneous

☞ *Job Printing of every description executed cheaply and promptly at the* MERCURY *Steam Printing House, Macdonnell Street, Guelph. An immense assortment of the latest and most chaste designs in plain and ornamental type has just been added to our previously large stock, rendering our establishment the most complete office in all its appointments to be found West of Toronto. Our charges are the lowest, and our work the best in the county.*

The Township Council of Minto have granted $80 to assist the Minto Agricultural Society to purchase a show ground.

By a typographical error, our Harriston correspondent was made to say that the snow was "ten" feet deep in Minto, instead of "two."

A CHANGE.—Mr. James Cascaden, of Elora, has given up hotel keeping, and is succeeded in the business by Mr. H. Harrison, of Hamilton.

An old and highly respected citizen of Montreal, Mr. John Redpath, died on Thursday morning, aged 73. He was laid up with a paralytic illness for nearly a year.

SOME PORK. — Mr. Robert Cook, of Elora, killed on Saturday last a sow of the Yorkshire breed, which weighed when dressed 523 lbs. He sold it to Mr. Andreach for $50.

WHAT ARE THE MORRISONIAN ERRORS?—Rev. James Howie will speak on the above subject in Zion Chapel, on the afternoon of Sabbath first, the 7th inst. Worship to commence at 3 o'clock.

Menonites and others who are exempt from military duty in consequence of their religious scruples, must appear before the Captain of the Company in which they are enrolled, and substantiate their exemption.

In Forest City, Me., a village 30 miles above Calais, that has grown up in the course of the last five years, every young lady and every young man at home is a Good Templar. The sale of liquor was never permitted there.

PRESENTATION TO THE 13TH BATTALION.—On Thursday, the 13th Battalion, Hamilton, was presented by the ladies of Hamilton with a beautiful baton, to be borne by the Drum Major in front of the Battalion. Mrs. Isaac Buchanan made the presentation.

A Roman General replied to the Ambassador of the King of Persia, who came to offer him a bribe, and found him washing his own garden sauce for dinner: "Tell your master that all the gold in Persia can't bribe the man who can live contentedly upon turnips."

The coffin of a young lady buried a few years ago near Alleghany was recently opened. The body was turned over and the clothes torn. It was evident that she had been buried alive. The mother, who saw the remains, has become insane, and is now in the Dixmont Asylum.

The New Brunswick Legislature was opened on Tuesday with the usual ceremonies. Governor Wilmot delivered a sensible speech. He represents that under confederation, the Province is in a happy and prosperous condition, and that the people have no reason to complain of their recent political change.

A traveller was once telling a Scotchman about a wonderful Pasha whom he had seen in Turkey, "with three tails that came out of his hat," when the Caledonian, with a shrug of contempt, interrupted him with the exclamation, 'Hoot, man, and hae we no Sir Walter Scott right here among us, wi' forty tales all direct frae his head!' The traveller was silenced.

The military idea of honor has a remarkable force in Belgium. Two common soldiers, recently under arrest, in the same cell, played cards to pass away the time. One of them lost the few sous in his possession, then his clothes, and finally staked his life. He lost! Next morning he was found hanging to a peg in the wall, his companion sleeping serenely on his pallet.

A newsboy just arrived from Omaha, is quite a curiosity as a specimen of Young America. He is but ten years old, and has made his way through eleven States already. He travels, according to his own words, on his cheek. He rides on railways for nothing and eats at restaurants, ordering the meals first and looking for his money afterward. He is now anxious for the Pacific Railroad to be opened through, and proposes to strike for the Pacific.

HALTON SPRING SHOW. — At a meeting of the Directors of the Halton Agricultural Society, at the Thompson House on Tuesday last, it was resolved to have the spring show on the 28th of April next, with power to the Secretary to alter the day, if it should be found to clash with other exhibitions. It was also resolved that all horses exhibited in a wrong class should be thrown out, and thirdly, the first class ploughing should be open to the province and not merely to the County as formerly.

SUDDEN DEATH.—On the 3rd inst., an aged man named James Campbell died suddenly in Mr. A. Lillie's house, Owen Sound Road, near Fergus, where he had been residing for the past few months. The deceased, judging from his dress and mode of living, was of very parsimonious habits, and on examining his clothes after death, it was found that he was in possession of a considerable sum of money. Deceased was close upon 70 years of age, being 16 years old when serving on board a man-of-war at the time the battle of Waterloo was fought. He received several wounds in the service of his country. The deceased possessed a set of Scotch bagpipes, on which he played with considerable skill.

The Last of Nelson's Captains.

(By Tom Hughes, in McMillan's Magazine, Feb.)

On the 8th of January, the last survivor of Nelson's captains, the Paladins of the great war, sank to his rest calmly at Greenwich, a hale old sea-king of eighty-six. Sir James A. Gordon had been Governor of the Hospital since 1853, and became Admiral of the Fleet just a year since, on the 30th of January, 1868. He entered the navy in November, 1693, at the mature age of ten years, straight from his father's house, Kildrummie Castle, Aberdeen; was posted in May, 1805, several years before the Premier was born; and had been nine times gazetted for conspicuous gallantry in the face of the enemy, while Mr. Gladstone was still in the nursery. The race to which he belonged stands out as clearly as Napoleon's marshals, of whom they were the contemporaries. Nelson's captains, now that we can look at them as a group of historical personages, strike us on the whole the most daring set of men ever thrown together for one work. Were it not for their uniform success, and the thoroughness with which they carried through that work, one might be inclined to call them foolhardy disciples of a chief who "did not know Mr. Fear."

As a boy, Sir James fought in the general actions, under Lord Bridgport, at Cape St. Vincent and the Nile, and took part in a dozen minor engagements and cuttings-out, which are recorded in the faithful pages of James.

But it was not until 1811 that his great chance in life came. In that year he was captain of the *Active* frigate, cruising in the Adriatic, under Hoste. They were three frigates and a 22-gun ship, the *Volage*; when off Lissa a French and Venetian fleet of six frigates, a 16-gun corvette, and two gunboats came in sight. Hoste wore at once and signalled "Remember Nelson," and the four English ships went into action with 128 guns less than the enemy, and 880 men against 2,600. In half an hour, the *Flore*, 40-gun frigate, struck to the *Active*; but Gordon without waiting to send a prize crew on board, followed the *Corona*, another French frigate, and took her within shot of the batteries of Lissa. Meantime, the *Flore* had taken away, no one knew where, and the able editors of the day denounced her captain for treachery, in not waiting for her captor's return, and blamed Gordon for not securing her.—Hoste only remarked that they did not know Gordon, if they thought he would waste a minute on a prize while an enemy's flag was flying.

Six months later, in the same waters, Maxwell in the *Alceste*, and Gordon in the *Active*, came up and fought through a long autumn day, with the *Pomone* and *Pauline*, French frigates running for Trieste. Gordon's leg was carried away by a 36-pounder, but the *Pauline* was taken, and Maxwell brought the sword of Rosamil, the French captain, to Gordon, as his by right.

In 1812, Gordon, now with a wooden leg, was again afloat, captain of the *Sea Horse*; and in 1814 he was under Cochrane on the American station. In August, Cochrane and Ross resolved on the raid on Washington, and Gordon, with a small squadron, was ordered to sail up the Potomac, in support of the land forces. He started on the 17th, and struggled up to Fort Washington in ten days. "We were without pilots," he writes, "to assist us through the difficult part of the river called Kettles' Bottom, consequently each of the ships were aground twenty times, and the crews were employed in warping two whole days." On the 27th he took Fort Washington, and on the next day he appeared off Alexandria, and offered terms of capitulation to the town which our cousins found hard of digestion. Washington city had been abandoned by Ross on the 25th, after the public buildings were burned. The whole country was rising, and here was this impudent, one legged captain insisting that the merchant ships which had been sunk on his approach should be delivered to him, with all the merchandise on board, or——. The army was already back at the coast, there was not the slightest chance of support, and his difficulties were increasing every hour; but the Alexandrians soon found that nothing but his own terms would get rid of this one-legged man. So the sunk merchantmen were "weighed, masted, hove down, caulked, rigged, and loaded" with the cargoes which had been put ashore, even down to the cabin furniture, and with twenty-one of them as prizes, at the end of three days Gordon started to run the gauntlet back to the sea, our cousins vowing they would teach him something about "terms of capitulation" before he got there, and they worked hard to keep their vow, and at one point (name unknown) had nearly effected their purpose be the aid of a strong battery and three fire ships. But Gordon in the *Sea Horse*, and Charles Napier in the *Euryalus*, anchored at short musket range right off the battery, and succeeded in almost silencing it; a daring middy or two towed away the fire-ships, and the whole fleet of merchant men slipped by. And so Gordon got down to the sea, with a total loss of three officers and sixty one men, after twenty-three days' operations, in which the hammocks were down only two nights. No stranger feat of daring was ever performed than this, now nearly forgotten.

His last command was in his old ship the Active, to which he was appointed in 1819; and in 1826 he was made superintendent of Plymouth Victualling Yard, at which time, so far as we know, his work as a fighting man ceased. 'Stop—we are wrong; on one occasion the old sea-lion was brought to bay. He attended the coronation of William IV., like a loyal messmate, in full admiral's uniform, with his orders, and the gold medal which had been awarded him after Lissa, on his breast. He walked away from the ceremony, and at a narrow street corner in Westminster was hailed by a leading rough in the crowd, 'By God! that's Jem Gordon. He flogged me in the Active, and now mates, let's settle him.' The admiral put his back to the wall, and looked the fellow in the face. 'I don't remember you,' said he 'but if I flogged you in the Active, you d———d rascal you deserved it. Come on.' Whereupon the crowd cheered, and suppressed his antagonist, and the Admiral stumped back to his hotel in peace.

Even with a wooden leg, he must have been a very formidable man in those days; for he stood six feet three inches, and had been all his life famous for feats of strength and activity. He could heave the lead further than any man in his best crews, and before his accident had been known to leap in and out of six empty water hogsheads placed in a line on the deck.

For the last sixteen years he has been living, full of years and honors, at Greenwich; and now he lies buried amongst his comrades, and has left the grand heritage of an unsullied name to his numerous grandchildren.

Heaven keep Great Britain from such a war as that in which James A. Gordon earned his good service pension of £300 a year and his Grand Cross of the Bath; but, if Britain is ever fated to endure the like again, Heaven send her such captains as James A. Gordon and his peers.

Townsman's Lucubrations.

To the Editor of the Guelph MERCURY.

DEAR SIR—I observe a piece of print (or rather missprint) in to-day's *Advertiser*, which I don't understand, and I doubt if anybody else does—"anybody" including the writer himself and the Editor of the *Advertiser*. It would seem as though neither one nor the other had ever studied grammar, or at least the first branch of it—orthography. I would here remark that I regard the writer who penned this remarkable epistle as a fool, or who is determined that the intelligent public shall have good cause for writing him down one.

But to the epistle itself. What does the writer mean by the following words, all contained in the one and a half columns of his "lucubrations" as he calls the long string of drivel, I suppose on the *lucus a non lucendo* principle—punctuation being taken on his own valuation as of no account—"dissopointed," "bonoxious," "factotums," "himkingt," "effort fyles," "indpenence," "tho't," "flagetlation," "enegines," "fatr," and so on throughout this whole rhapsody of nonsense.

Oh for a new edition of Johnson or Walker! The writer and the *Advertiser* both seem to be considerably in advance of the age in the spelling department, and to have an intimate knowledge of some language unknown to common folks. As to the composition and spirit of the epistle, the less said the better. But what can be expected but folly from any correspondent of the *Advertiser*. All is grist that comes to its mill, and every lunatic who will write for nothing can have full swing in the *Advertiser*, so long as its columns can be filled up at a cheap rate.

I have no fear but that you will survive the vicious onslaught of Townsman, who by the way he writes has evidently been struck under the fifth rib. I also hope that you will avoid the scurrility and "kakography" of the *Advertiser*, and shall continue to subscribe to your paper, although you are not of my nationality or politics, and hope long to remain

Your's truly,
ANOTHER TOWNSMAN.

Guelph March 5, 1869.

Something for the Narrow Gaugers to Digest.

We copy the following from the Ottawa *Times*, and recommend the facts contained therein to the attention of Laidlaw, Gordon & Co., and the enthusiastic admirers of the so called 'cheap' railways. "The disadvantages of narrow gauge railways in Canada have been demonstrated by the troubles of the St. Lawrence and Ottawa Railway during the past two weeks. The base of the business of all the lines of railway in Canada, with the single exception of the Great Western, is the Grand Trunk, and while it is the interest of the main line that all its feeders should be at all times in good working order, it is even more the interest of those branch lines that they should be in a position to avail themselves of the greater facilities of the larger corporation in cases of emergency. Had the road between this city and Prescott been constructed on the broad gauge principle, the locomotives of the Grand Trunk could have been put upon it, and the snow cleared from the track in a few hours, instead of blocking up the road for more than a week, as has been the case. The necessity of building subsidiary lines with a view to harmonize with the main lines, or with traffic with which they connect, has been sufficiently demonstrated by the Great Western Railway. That road, which is a connecting link between the New York and Western railways, was built upon the broad gauge plan; but so much delay and annoyance arose from this cause that the Company were compelled to lay down a third rail for the purpose of allowing the American cars to traverse it. It surely would be worth while for those who are agitating the building of railways which must connect with the Grand Trunk to consider the matter, and not permit themselves to be so wedged to an idea as to persist in the construction of these roads with a gauge which they are sure, sooner or later, to regret having adopted, as the authorities of the St. Lawrence and Prescott do now. The projectors of lines in the neighbourhood of Toronto have a peculiar interest at this time in giving the subject careful consideration; and in the face of the disadvantages resulting from the narrow lines the Government ought to refuse all further charters for them. There is now a rival line to the St Lawrence and Ottawa being constructed, to connect with the Grand Trunk by way of Carleton Place, at Brockville, which probably would not have been undertaken, certainly not for years to come, if the Ottawa and St. Lawrence road had been so built as thoroughly to connect with the main line of traffic. These facts should impress themselves upon those interested in the construction of branch lines."

PRESIDENT GRANT'S CABINET.—The following are the names of President Grant's Cabinet: Secretary of State, D. B. Washburne, of Illinois Secretary of Treasury, A. T. Stewart, of New York. Secretary, of Interior, J. D. Cox, of Ohio. Secretary of Navy, Adolphe E. Boihrie, of Pennsylvania. Secretary of War, Gen. John M. Schofield, of Ohio. Postmaster-General, John. A. J. Cresswell, of Maryland. Attorney-General, Judge E. B. Hoare, of Massachusetts. The Senate confirmed the entire Cabinet a few minutes after their names were received. Besides the Cabinet, President Grant nominated W. T. Sherman to be General; P. A. Sheridan to be Lieut.-General; J. M. Schofield to be Major-General; and Augur to be Brigade-General, all of whom were confirmed in a brief session.

Jacobs' Rheumatic Liquid sells faster where introduced than any other Liniment.

BY TELEGRAPH

PER ATLANTIC CABLE.

Despatches to the Evening Mercury

LONDON, March 6th. — A report published in the Paris *Liberte* of to-day announces the death of Pope Pius IX. The statement is discredited.

The English and French journals are almost unanimous in their eulogies over President Grant's Inaugural Address. That portion of it relating to the foreign policy which the President elect considers to be the true course is regarded with much satisfaction, and indicates a desire to guard the maintenance of peace

American Despatches

Washington, March 6th. — The announcement of the names of the members of the new cabinet took everybody by surprise, as a different *caste* had been generally circulated. The general opinion is that the appointments possess little or no significance, and that Grant selected them for their fitness pretty much the same as he selected his generals and staff, and that all the members enjoy his highest personal esteem and confidence. It is urged as an advantage that none of them have political friends or enemies to reward or punish, and that the nominations for the subordinate positions, which will be left entirely to the discretion of the heads of departments will be influenced solely by their capacity and integrity. A gentleman was informed by the President to-day that he would tolerate no idlers in any department of the Government, as the people were too poor to pay salaries as a mere bonus to professional politicians.

New York, March 6th. — St. Domingo advices state that the revolution which broke out at Seybo has been suppressed, the leaders captured and their fate unknown.

The *Times*, *Herald* and *Sun* speak in high terms of the new cabinet, regarding it as decidedly more useful than ornamental. The *World* does not see any great merit in either of the men selected.

Chicago, March 6th.—Early this morning a calamitous fire occurred on Canal Street. Eleven men were on the roof of a building when it gave way. Four were killed, the others escaped.

Attempt to Break Gaol.

Last (Friday) night two of the prisoners in Guelph gaol—Merlihan and O'Donnel—the former confined for cattle stealing, and the latter for rape—made an attempt to break gaol and regain their freedom. It appears that during the day, one of them, with the help of a piece of cordwood, pried off one of the crossbars of the window in the corridor. He must have taken this bar into his cell, and after dark with the aid of some blocks taken off his bedstead for levers, got it in between the door of his cell and the casing. He then worked it up till he got to the lock, which he burst open.—Having got out of his cell, he then handed it to his companion, who also burst open the door of his cell. Having got so far, they next succeeded in getting the door opened which leads from the corridor to the day cell, and were attempting to pry open the window of that apartment which opens on the yard, when the noise of their movements attracted the attention of the turnkey, who at once discovered what they were about. They were secured and conducted back to other cells, where all was made fast and sure

Dr. O'Brennan's Lecture.

To the Editor of the Mercury.

DEAR SIR,—Allow me when thanking you for your brief and impartial review of Dr. O'Brennan's learned and eloquent lecture, to correct a mistake into which you have no doubt, inadvertently fallen. He did not state that the Celts were descended of Shem and Japhet. The doctor more than once impressed on the audience the fact that the Celts were the offsprings of Japhet, and the Israelites of Shem, and in doing so, he referred to the book of Genesis as corroborative of the Irish Records as well as of the writings of Sir Lawrence Parsons and Dr. Parsons, Secretary of the Antiquarian Society of London—the former, Author of the "Defence of Ancient Ireland" and the latter, Author of the "Remains of Japhet." There were some other slight inaccuracies which, perhaps, were unavoidable on the part of the gentlemen who attended from your office. I am sure I speak the general opinion when I say that those who were present at the Lecture are thankful to you for your unbiased notice. Clergymen and other good scholars, who heard the lecture, have confessed that they received a learned and interesting treat. If other persons of morbid taste don't understand the rules of oratory they ought to be silent as to what it is. My own humble opinion is that the best eloquence is that which places before an assembly a subject in graceful and lucid language to be understood by all and not by only a few; such, I think, is genuine eloquence, and such was Dr. O'Brennan's language.

Yours, respectfully,
GAEL.

Guelph, March 6th, 1869.

STAMPS ON NOTES.—The *Globe* says, a decision has been given in Baker vs. Brown in the Superior Court, Toronto, which is of considerable interest to the commercial community. This was an action brought to recover payment of a note made by defendant and held by plaintiff. For the defence it was pleaded that the note not having been properly stamped when it came into plaintiff's hands defendant was not liable. It was shown that before the note fell due it was properly stamped, plaintiff having a few days after it came into his possession affixed upon it the proper stamps, together with the penalty. It was, however, held by the Court that the stamps should have been affixed when the note came into plaintiff's possession, and because such had not been done, the note was declared invalid, and judgment given for defendant.

THE INAUGURATION BALL AT WASHINGTON. — The inauguration ball on Wednesday night was almost turned into a reception. The crowd was so immense that dancing was almost impossible. The President and Vice-President received the congratulations of their friends.