Carleton Place Herald.

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The First Snowdrop.

Still far in the South is the sunshine of Spring;
Pretty snowdrop, then tell me what bringeth thee here?
What tempts thee thy fairy-like flowers to fling
On the snow-drift and storm, when all nature is drear?

Oh, wert thou too weary of Winter's long night?
Did a chance ray of sunshine thine instinct beguile?
Or vanity tempt thee, in garment of white?
To mock at the snow-flake, less bright than thy smile?

Ah no! Pretty snowdrop, forgive me the thought;
While thy white bud so meekly, so tremblingly bends,
No Fancy, by Folly or Vanity taught,
With thy musings of beautiful purity blends.

But rather, methinks, 'tis to solace the weary,
On the bosom of Winter thou lovest to bloom;
To teach us, no reason is ever so dreary
But a flower may be springing to brighten its gloom.

Like the snow that lies heavy upon thy frail flower,
Desolation and grief on our bosom may press,
And colder than thou in thine ice wreathed bower,
Are they that can find not a friend to caress.

Then why should we shrink, while thy delicate form
Is safe in His care from the wings of the blast?
Why lift not our hearts in the midst of life's storm,
And our hopes and our fears on his tenderness cast?

Resignation of the Ministry.

The Macdonald-Administration no longer exists! The negotiations instituted with a view to strengthen the Ministry in Lower Canada were not successful, and yesterday morning, at half past ten, a Cabinet Council was held to consider what course should be adopted. The result arrived at was a unanimous determination to resign office. Accordingly, at one o'clock, the Premier waited on the Governor General, and placed in His Excellency's hands the resignations of all the members of the Cabinet. His Excellency was pleased to accept the resignations, and the Ministers only hold office until their successors have been appointed.

Shortly after one o'clock the Governor General was pleased to send for the Hon. A. J. Ferguson Blair, and to charge that gentleman with the formation of a new Administration. Mr. Blair asked time to consult his political friends, and to this His Excellency at once assented. Mr. Blair proceeded forthwith to place himself in communication with Sir E. P. Tache, but that gentleman being absent from town he had to be communicated with by telegraph at St. Thomas. An answer was received from Sir Etienne last night that he would return to Quebec to-day.

What success may attend Mr. Blair's application to Sir E. P. Tache, or what shape the reconstruction may take should the movement prove successful, it is, of course, impossible to say. We can but wait patiently the course of events for an answer to these queries. But assuredly this fact is certain, that no Ministry can be constructed with a prospect of long life before it, that does not deal with the question of representative reform. It may be that the new Government, like the one that has just expired, will leave this great question in abeyance; and even then, if composed of men of integrity and ability, prepared to deal earnestly and firmly with the financial questions now pressing for solution—we do not doubt that it will be sustained by a working majority of the present House. But, assuredly, the best men among its supporters from Upper Canada will do so with reluctance—will do so simply because they know not how to do better, and will do so with the determination of demanding a just share of representation for Upper Canada on all occasions and at all hazards.

The Macdonald-Dorion Administration has not enjoyed a long existence, and a very brilliant career was not, under the circumstances, within the scope of possibility. But, in the practical routine of admistering public affairs, has earned the hearty gratitude of the public. Retrenchment in the public expenditures has been effected by it to a large annual amount; many useless offices have been abolished; and not a few flagrant abuses in the public service have been exposed and redressed. The lesson taught by it to unfaithful and inefficient officials, will long exercise a salutary effect throughout our country. And not only has there been a total absence of the jobbery and corruption that so disgraced our country for many years—but there has pervaded the whole proceedings of the Macdonald-Sicotte Government a degree of fidelity and carefulness in dealing with the public moneys altogether commendable. We had not unfrequently to dissent from the policy of the Government that has just expired; but, under all the circumstances of the situation, we cannot but feel that the country has deep cause to regret that it was not permitted to complete the measures of reform on which it had entered.—*Globe.*

Be Punctual.

By punctuality we do not mean the merely being in time for lectures, dinners, &c., but that spirit out of which punctuality grows—that love of accuracy, precision and vigor which makes efficient men and women—the determination that what you have to do shall be done, in spite of all petty obstacles, and finished off at once and finally. We believe there is a story told of Nelson and his coachmaker, which is worthy of being recorded. When he was on the eve of departing on one of his great expeditions, the coachmaker said to him—"The carriage shall be at the door, punctually at the door, at six o'clock." "A quarter before," said Nelson. "I have always been a quarter of an hour before my time, and it has made a man of me."

The man who relies upon his own thoughts for success, *skulls* himself along the stream of life.

A young man advertises in a New Jersey paper for a situation as son-in-law in a respectable family. Would have no objection, he says, to go a short distance into the country.

Lanark Council.

Middleville, 8th March, 1864.

Pursuant to adjournment the Municipal Council of Lanark Township met this day, Councillors all present.

The minutes of last session of Council having been read, approved and signed, the following documents were presented and read:—

Petition of George Dodd and others, praying the council to divide the 3rd road division of 8th con. line, the 4th division to extend from the 22nd lot to the head of the con. line.

Account of Commissioner McLachlan.

Petition of Henry Bulloch and others, praying the council to constitute the petitioners a new road division of the 4th concession line, on the plea that the petitioners have no interest in the roads to which their statute labour is generally applied.

Petition of George A. Tennant, for the office of Assessor, and proffering to discharge its duties for $30.

Petition of James Rankin, praying to be relieved from the office of Assessor, on account of ill health.

Petition of Robert McFee, praying to be included in the 3rd road division of the 9th con. line.

Mr. Campbell gave notice of his intention, to introduce, at this session of council, a by-law providing for confirming an award of arbitration for the settlement of matters in difference between the municipalities of the Township and Village of Lanark.

Mr. Mathie gave notice of his intention to move, at next session of council, for an enquiry into the financial condition of this municipality, with a view to ascertain if the demand, on the part of government for interest upon railroad debentures can be met without a special levy therefor.

On the motion of Mr. Campbell, seconded by Mr. Yuill, and carried, for the first reading; on the motion of Mr. Mathie, seconded by Mr. Campbell, and carried, for the second reading; and on the motion of Mr. Reid, seconded by Mr. Yuil, and carried, for the third reading and passing, the by-law providing for an award of arbitration for settling the matters in difference between the municipalities of the Township and Village of Lanark, was read a first, second and third time and passed.

Petition of Edward Hopkins and others, praying the council not to grant the prayer of the petition of James McGee, and others, for the stopping up of a road leading through the farm of James McGee, and claiming that great public inconvenience would result from such stopping up.

Moved by Mr. Mathie, seconded by Mr. Campbell, that the prayers of the petitions of George Dodds and others, and of Robert McFee be granted. Carried.

Petition of William Aitken and others, praying the council to unite the 3rd and 4th road divisions of the 11th con. line, on the plea that the aggregate number of days of statute labour of the 4th road division is only fourteen, and utterly inadequate to keep the roads of the division in repair.

Petition of John Campbell for the office of Assessor.

Mr. Mathie moved, seconded by Mr. Yuil, that the resignation of the office of Assessor, be for the reasons adduced by him, accepted. Carried.

Mr. Campbell moved, seconded by Mr. Yuil, that the prayer of the petition of W. Aitken and others be granted. Carried.

Mr. Reid moved, seconded by Mr. Yuil, that, as it is evident that George Tennant in proffering to discharge the duties of Assessor for the small sum of $30, could not be aware of the large increase of labour connected with the office, arizing from the provisions of the Militia Act, therefore to save him from a certain loss the prayer of his petition be refused. Car.

Mr. Yuil moved, seconded by Mr. Reid, that the prayer of the petition of Henry Bulloch and others be granted. Car.

Mr. Mathie moved, seconded by Mr. Reid, that the prayer of the petition of John Campbell be granted. Car.

Report of Bridge Commissioners Foley and Coulter.

Mr. Campbell moved, seconded by Mr. by Reid, that the petition of Edward Hopkins and others lie over for 4 months.

Mr. Mathie moved in amendment, seconded by Mr. Yuil, that the reconsideration of the petition of James McGee and others take place at the April session of council and that James McGee be notified to suspend any measures for opening the original allowance for road.

A tie having occurred on the amendment and also on the original motion, the Reeve decided in favor of the amendment.

Mr. Yuil moved, seconded by Mr. Mathie that the application of the contractor for building the Town Hall, for interest upon the notes granted to him by the Municipal council in 1863, be allowed, and the notes altered accordingly, in view of the evidence of the claim adduced before this council. Carried.

Mr. Campbell requested the Yeas and Nays on the foregoing resolution to be recorded.

Yeas—Messrs. Mathie, Yuil and Reid.

Nays—Mr. Campbell.

Mr. Mathie moved, seconded by Mr. Campbell, that the report of commissioners Foley and Coulter be adopted and an order made for payment. Carried.

Mr. Campbell moved, seconded by Mr. Mathie, that an order be made for payment of Inspector Rankin's acct. for inspection of Inns in 1863 and 1864. Car.

Mr. Campbell moved, seconded by Mr. Mathie, that contractor M. Kirdie be paid the sum of £20, as value for amount of contract performed. Car.

Adjourned until Saturday, March 12th.

WILLIAM SCOTT,
Town Clerk.

Middleville, March 18th, 1864.

Middleville, March 12th.

Pursuant to adjournment the municipal council of the township of Lanark met this day—all the councillors present.

The minutes of last session of council having been read, approved and signed, the following documents were presented and read:

Memorial of Duncan Ballantyn, custodian of Road Scraper, desiring to be instructed in relation to allowing the use of the road scraper under his charge to contractors under road commissioners.

Petition of Alex. Erskine and others, praying the council to direct the application of the statute labour of the 3rd road division of the 10th con. line to the improvement of the line opposite the 15th lot and original allowance for road between the 15th and 16th lots of the 9th con.

Petition of George Aikman and 25 ratepayers, praying the council to amend the by-law providing for licensing Inns, so that more than two inns may be licensed in the municipality.

Mr. Mathie gave notice of his intention to introduce, at this session of council, a by-law to provide for the appointment of Pathmasters, Pound-keepers, and Fence-viewers, and of a by-law providing for the amendment of a by-law passed by this council for the appointment of certain municipal officers for the year 1864.

On the motion of Mr. Mathie, seconded by Mr. Yuil, for the first reading, and carried; on the motion of Mr. Campbell, seconded by Mr. Reid, for the second reading, and carried; and on the motion of Mr. Yuil seconded by Mr. Reid, for the erasure of the name of James Rank, as Assessor from a certain by-law, and the insertion of the name of John Campbell therein as Assessor reading a third time and passing, the by-law providing for amending a certain by-law was read a first, second and third time, the necessary alterations made therein, and was passed.

Mr. Mathie moved, seconded by Mr. Campbell, that this council go into committee of the whole for the investigation of the financial affairs of the municipality, and that Mr. Yuil be chairman thereof. Carried.

The committee produced a report shewing that, after providing for all present liabilities, a balance of $113.74 remains on hand.

Mr. Mathie moved, seconded by Mr. Campbell, that the foregoing report be adopted, and that the clerk be instructed to examine the data upon which it is based for its versification before the next meeting of council. Car.

Mr. Mathie moved, seconded by Mr. Yuil, that the Reeve furnish the clerk with an order to draw the 1st instalment of the debt due this municipality by that of the village of Lanark, as awarded by arbitration, and that the Clerk pay the same over to the Treasurer. Carried.

Mr. Campbell moved, seconded by Mr. Mathie, that the Clerk write to the several pathmasters of the road division in which a union or division road divisions have been made by resolution of council, explaining the changes effected, and the names of the parties petitioning therefor. Carried.

Mr. Campbell moved, seconded by Mr. Reid, that owing to the misapprehension, on the part of the clerk in relation to the by law for licensing Inns, whereby the sum of $5 has been charged in each case in excess of the terms of the by-law, therefore the Reeve grant an order for refunding such excess to the parties who have paid it. Car.

On motion of Mr. Yuil, seconded by Mr. Campbell, for the first reading and carried, on the motion of Mr. Reid, seconded by Mr. Campbell for the second reading and carried, and on the motion of Mr. Campbell, seconded by Mr. Reid, for filling the blanks with the following names and numbers, that is to say: 1st con. line, John McIntyn and Jas. Boyle; 2nd con. line, Henry Gallinger, John Miller, Edward Gloss, Thos. Molineaux, and Charles Stewart; 3rd con. line, Daniel McCurdie, John Cumming, Robert Bulloch, & Wm. Drummond; 4th con. line, George Gilles, Robert Anderson, J. W. Anderson and Henry Bulloch; 5th con. line, Charles Closs, Wm. Scott and Robert Craig; 6th con. line, John Miller, James McKettrick, Peter Lawson and George Affleck; 9th con line, Joseph Graham, Wm. Creighton, Q. Peverik. Wm. Ritchie and James Watt; 8th con. line, Michael Bennet, Henry Roger Gavin McAlister, James Mitchel and Thos. McGee; 9th con line, Timothy Sulivan, James Arnot, John Turiff, Robert McFee; 10th con. line, Alexander Sibbitt, James Smith, David Campbell, Wm. Angus; 11th con. line, Thos. Ireton, Wm. Given, James Scoular; 12th con. line, Thos. Jackson, jr., Benjamin James, John McCay; rear of 12th con., Wm. Halpenny, George Kellough and Patrick Savage: Thomas Kelso, Ed. Ball, James Henderson, John McDonald, James Rankin, Joseph Stoddart, Patrick Ryan, James Lamont, James Leister, Neil McCoy and Robert Tennant, Pound-keepers; and Wm. Stead, James Young and H. Hammond, Fence viewers, reading at third time and passing, the by-law providing for the appointment of Pathmasters, Pound-keepers and Fence-viewers, was read a first second and third time, the blanks filled up, as above noted, and passed.

Account of Peter Reid for fire wood for use in Town Hall, amount $1.50. Ordered to be paid.

Account of Town Clerk for postage and stationary, from 18th Sept. 1863 till 6th Jan. 1864. Amount $3,94. Ordered to be paid.

Account of H. Rowswell, Esq., for Municipal blanks, $10.59. Ordered to be paid.

Mr. Mathie moved, seconded by Mr. Yuil, that all documents at present before this council undisposed of, lie over until next session of council.

Adjourned until Tuesday, the 28th day of April.

WILLIAM SCOTT,
Town Clerk.

Middleville, 21st March, 1864.

Rifle Match.

The annual match of the St. Lawrence Rifle Association will be held at Cornwall on the 5th of July. At a meeting of the Council held in Brockville on Monday, a local committee was submitted to the Council and agreed to. It is expected that about $700 or $800 will be raised by subscription, which sum will be offered in prizes. The inhabitants of Cornwall are determined to do their duty in the matter, the Mayor, Mr. Allen, and other gentlemen taking great interest in the preliminaries. Formerly the association was known as that of Military District No. 2, but districts being now done away with, the name was altered on Monday to that of the St. Lawrence Rifle Association.—*Recorder.*

THE HEART.—Dr. Lee, an eminent physician, asserts that he has discovered—by what means we are not told—that the *heart* is the organ or seat of the nervous sensibility in the highest degree—not the brain as has long been supposed. Therefore the Bible when it speaks of the heart-broken, the heart-sorrowing, the heart-grieving, the heart-bleeding, does not use language unwarranted by physiological science, but what the recent discoverers of that science have demonstrated to be literally true.

Madame Succa, of the Berlin opera, is such a favorite there, that she has been engaged for life at an enormous salary, with a six months' vacation annually to rest herself.

Whenever the wandering demon of drunkenness finds a ship adrift, he steps on board, takes the helm, and steers straight for the Maelstrom.

Printing and Stationery.

(From the Globe, 19th.)

The Legislative Assembly yesterday adopted a report from the Joint Committee on Printing, in which it was recommended that tenders should be asked for the printing, printing paper, and binding which will be required by the two Houses of Parliament for five years from the first of January next. This decision was arrived at in the face of a very strong case which was made out of the present contractors for the printing. Messrs. Hunter, Rose & Co. have for some years executed the printing required by Parliament at a very low rate, and in a very satisfactory manner. They were willing, it is said to renew their contract on the old terms, and naturally enough, many members thought nothing better could be done. But as the tender system has worked so well, it was deemed advisable to adhere to it. By a fair majority, the House decided to pass over the claims of the present contractors, and to ask for tenders.

We could not well have a stronger endorsation of the contract principle than is thus afforded. We feel sure that many members must have regretted the necessity of voting against the proposal to continue Messrs. Hunter, Rose & Co. as printers to the Legislature on the old terms.

The question arises, why does Parliament not extend the application of this principle in which they have just shown such faith? Why should not the various departments ask tenders for their printing, stationery and binding? Why is each Minister of the Crown left to peddle about as he pleases the printing, &c., which he has to get? The principle which holds good in the one case, should apply in the other. If a Minister is to have the privilege of ordering his printing wherever he please, or wherever political motives incline him to order it, the Parliamentary majority has an equal right to shower its printing patronage upon its favorites. If there is any difference, indeed, it is on the side of the Legislature, as being the higher authority in regard to the disposition of public moneys. The Legislature saves annually many thousands of dollars by the contract system, and it is undoubted that the Departments might save more by the adoption of the same system. Why, then, let us ask, is it not done?

It is clearly the interest of any Government that such a change should be made. The downfall of the Coalition was, in the opinion of many of its friends, hastened by the exposures of the gross printing and stationery jobs for which it was responsible. In return, the Opposition papers are now endeavoring to cast a good deal of odium upon the present Government for the manner in which they sustained their Quebec organ. So far, they do not make out a case in any way half as bad as that of Mr. Foote. They simply show that according to the Public Accounts, Mr. Blackburn had about $25,000 dollars worth of patronage in 1863. It is not fair to jump at the conclusion that his accounts are made up in the same scandalous way as were Mr. Foote's. It is quite time enough to say that when there is evidence to show it. At present we incline to the opinion that Mr. Blackburn's prices will be found much more reasonable than were those of the chief Quebec organist of the Coalition. Indeed, it is shown that, altogether, the Department paid some thirty thousand dollars less for printing, stationery, &c., in 1863, than they did either in 1861 or 1862. It will not be pretended, however, that Mr. Blackburn's prices have been as low as could have been obtained by an appeal to public competition. A good deal of money has undoubtedly been saved by the exchange from Mr. Foote to Mr. Blackburn, but that is not enough. What is wanted is a change of the system. It is vicious, and no one, be he, ever so desirous, can work it without injury to the public interest.

The motive for giving Mr. Blackburn patronage to the extent of $25,000 a year, is, of course, a political one. Ministers think they require an organ at Quebec, and that they must sustain it with public patronage. Our own opinion is that the advantage of this sort of organship is very much overrated. The very fact that a journal is known to live by Government patronage, is enough to destroy its influence. It is scarcely conceivable that such a journal, be it conducted ever so ably, could influence a single vote in parliament, or a single constituency in the country. The independent, unpurchased support accorded to the present Administration by more than a hundred. Reform papers throughout the country, is of infinitely more value than most eloquent advocacy, or the most fulsome praise of a subsidized journal can be. A respectable journal, be it ever so humble, which gives a disinterested support to a Government, must make a far greater impression upon public opinion than can possibly be made by a paid organist. A Government which was wholly dependent on the latter kind of journalists to defend its policy, would be in the last agonies of dissolution. When the Administration becomes so weak as to be destitute of friends in the press who will support it from party or public motives, it will be found perfectly idle for it to rely upon purchased adulation.

Though the "stationery and printing" transactions of the present Government may be very much better than those of the Coalition, it is very evident that Ministers are incurring a good deal of censure for nothing. They are furnishing their opponents with an argument which is being used in every possible way, and in return they get only a doubtful advantage. They should, from motives of self-interest, if from no higher ones, put an end to this. All that is wanted is an extension to the Departmental printing and stationery of the system which is now applied to the Legislative printing. Will Ministers serve their own interests, and the interests of the public, by adopting so just a reform?

A PRINTER'S ERROR.—A ludicrous blunder appears in a Ripon paper, caused by a line which properly belonged to a meeting report having been accidentally placed between the announcements of births. The record read as follows:—"On the 3rd inst., at Ellington, the wife of Mr. Terry, schoolmaster, of a son. He spoke indistinctly, but was understood to say that, on the 5th inst., at Bondgate, Ripon the wife of Mr. Joseph Londsdale, tailor, of a daughter."

A son of the Emerald Isle, once riding to market with a sack of potatoes before him, discovered that the horse was getting tired, whereupon he dismounted, put the potatoes on his shoulder and again mounted, saying, "It was better that he should carry the potatoes, he was fresher than the poor beast."

What do we seek redress for? Injuries. Where do we find it? In juries.

Doctor Chambers.

The Recorder says we see it stated in the *Central Canadian* of last week that Dr. Chambers, father of the worthy and popular M. P. for Brockville, is supposed to be a prisoner of war in the hands of the Confederates. We trust this maybe incorrect. We publish below an extract we have been permitted to make from a letter written on the 22nd ult., by the Doctor, to H. S. McDonald, Esq., Barrister of this town, in order that the Doctor's numerous friends may see what that gentleman was then engaged in. The letter is written from Newbern, North Carolina:—

"I told you I would write you on my locating. I am much pleased with the tour which I have taken. I spent two days in the city of New York, one in Jersey City, and then came on to Washington. There I was introduced to the Surgeon General of the United States Army, who is a thorough gentleman. The same afternoon I received an appointment as Surgeon in the United States Army. After having visited the principal parks, and Government buildings (staying two days for that purpose) I left for Baltimore *en route* for Fortress Monroe, at which latter place I was ordered to report, the Head Quarters for Virginia and North Carolina being there. There I received orders to report at the City of Newbern, North Corolina, where I now am. It is one of the most beautiful cities I have ever seen, notwithstanding the disasters and devastation of the war. We have about 15,000 inhabitants, black and white.

Every street is adorned with beatiful trees overhanging the streets and sidewalks. There are many very fine buildings, which are principally occupied by the soldiers. You know the place was taken by Gen. Burnside, and is now occupied by Northern troops. It is guarded by five forts and embrasures, and we consider it very strong. The Meuse and Kent rivers, with many vessels of war, guard it on the East and South sides. We had a raid, and the Railroad over which I came here was torn up by the Southerners, but since replaced. The Secessionists were about 15,000 strong, but were gallantly repulsed, since which time we have been strongly reinforced. We are expecting another raid, but I pity them if they come again. They burned one of our gunboats and a splendid one it was. So you see I am in the midst of war. I am in charge of two camps north and south of the city. If you could see me on my charger every morning in military costume, visiting my patients, it would warm your Scotch blood. By the bye, I am just now in the room where we quarter, I and a Scotch gentleman with whom I came out, and we have been together ever since. We are in the same department, and we agree in every particular. His name is Dr. Moore. So you see I am lucky in my association. Tell Campbell and Dickinson (Sheriff I suppose) and Hervey, that I am all right. I did not see Fraser at Washington. Write me and let me know how you all are.

Yours sincerely,

JAS. A. CHAMBERS.

Brockville Ahead Again.

Some weeks since we reported the examination of the Brockville Volunteers by Liet. Col. Earle, the Government Inspector for the Kingston Division. Ever since then, expectation has been on tiptoe to learn the result of Col. Earle's inspection. At length the result is known, and Major Crawford's Brockville Rifles declared entitled to the first prize, while Capt. Buell's Infantry Company is awarded the second prize. The third prize has been given to Major Livicount's Belleville Rifles, and the fourth to Col. Jessup's Rifle Company of Prescott. The Prizes stand thus—first prize $100; second $80; third $70 and fourth $50. Hurrah for Brockville, say we, and thanks to Sergeant Conway the drill instructor, and the officers who give their services in putting the men through.

As there are three or four vacancies for officers to qualify at the military school of Instruction, we would recommend young men from the country to make immediate application to Brigade Major Jackson, such application to contain name, age, residence, and whether British subjects by birth or naturalization. Pupils who take first class certificates receive $100; those taking second class certificates $50. This amount, it is expected, will pay for board and something more. The passage of candidates to Toronto where the military school is situated, will be paid whether certificates are obtained or otherwise.—*Recorder.*

Brigade Majors.

The Perth Expositor is not pleased with the dismissal of Brigade Major Montgomery. He says so, but in his condemnatory remarks he speaks disparagingly of Brigade Major Jackson. This is unjust. Our contemporary says:

"We know nothing whatever of Major Jackson as a Militia officer; but as he is engaged in business in Brockville, we do not see how he is to give the required attention to the very large military district now placed under his control, unless he should confine his attention altogether to it, and this we should think he will hardly do, unless along with a double district he gets double pay; in this case where is the retrenchment?"

The Expositor is in error in thinking that Major Jackson attends to his business in Brockville. Since his appointment he wholly devotes his time to militia matters, and as to any increase in salary, not one farthing is to be paid extra. No fault was found with Major Montgomery. If, however, the work can be performed by one officer, the government is perfectly justified in curtailing the expenditure. This is where our contemporary may see retrenchment.—*Recorder.*

PERT.—We have some German friends up at Galena, who, in daily conversation, use the English language, but the mother teaches her children the same German prayers she used to repeat in her childhood, away back on the banks of the Rhine. One night, as little Ernest, a precocious chap of some four summers, was quietly going through his evening devotions, he suddenly electrified and astonished his pious mother, by exclaiming, "Ma, why do we always talk Yankee and pray German? Is God a Dutchman?"

The other evening a gentleman's button caught hold of the fringe of a lady's shawl. "I am attached to you," said the gentleman, laughing, while he was industriously trying to get loose. "The attachment is mutual," was the good-humored reply.

PROVINCIAL PARLIAMENT.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

Quebec, March 21.

The Speaker took the Chair at three o'clock.

Mr. Scatcherd reported the final decision of the Carleton Election Committee as follows: 1st. That W. F. Powell, Esq., was duly elected at the last election. 2nd. That neither the petition nor the defence of the sitting member was frivilous or vexatious.

Mr. Holton moved that the Varaheres Election Committee have leave to adjourn till the 4th April, with the consent and on the motion of both parties.—Carried.

The following Bills were introduced:—

Mr. Shanly—Bill to amend the charter of the South-eastern Mining Company of Canada.

Mr. Denis—Bill to amend chapter 32 of the Consolidated Statutes of Canada, respecting Agricultural societies.

Mr. Morris—Bill to incorporate the Montreal Tow Boat Company.

Mr. Pouliot—Bill to provide that Acts of Parliament shall not take effect within a certain time after their passage, unless it be therein otherwise provided.

Mr. Fortier—Bill to amend chapter 26 of the Consolidated Statutes of Lower Canada.

Mr. McCookey—Bill to remove doubts as to the sale and right of redemption of lands sold for taxes in certain counties in Upper Canada.

Mr. Price—Bill to facilitate the transactions of the Quebec and North shore Turnpike Trust.

The orders of the day having been called.

The Hon. John Sanfield McDonald rose, and said—Before the Orders of the Day are called, I shall crave the attention of the House for some little time, while I refer to matters necessary to be stated as preliminary to a motion which I shall feel it my duty to make before I sit down. It will be in the recollection of the members of this House, and of other members who were of this House at the time to which I refer, that when I had the honor of being called upon by His Excellency the Governor General to form an Administration to carry on the affairs of the country after the resignation of the gentlemen on the other side of the House, I found myself embarrassed by the fact that I had to deal in the construction of that Ministry, with a House elected under the auspices of gentlemen on the other side. The task, therefore, was one of no ordinary magnitude and difficulty; still I took upon myself the duty that was assigned to me, for I considered the time had arrived, after a lengthy period of power in the hands of the party who called themselves the Conservative party, when we should endeavor to prove to the country that an Administration could be formed from the then Opposition equal to the task of conducting the affairs of the country in a satisfactory manner. With that view, I addressed myself directly to the members of the Opposition, although not at that time agreeing with them on all points, except one particular point. At all events, I felt it my duty to approach them, and I must say they responded as cordially as was possible for a party to do under the circumstances. An Administration was formed, the members of which were composed altogether of the Opposition. An adjournment of the House followed shortly afterwards, a vote of supply having been granted, and we proceeded to fill the Administrative duties which developed upon the Government. From that which preceded us, we had legacies left on our hands which would have embarrassed a stronger Government than we were at that time. We had the Grand Trunk difficulty on our hands; we had the Intercolonial arrangement, the meeting to effect which was agreed upon before we came into office; we had the postal arrangement, too, on our hands, and various other questions of great importance; and we proceeded with a desire to settle those matters comfortably to the wishes and expectations of the people of this country. We had been promised fair play in our efforts to carry out the Government of the country, and when Parliament re-assembled we proceeded with the measures we had announced in our programme of policy as the McDonald-Sicotte Government. At last we had a vote of want of confidence passed, on motion of the member for Kingston. The difficulties which had preceded were not lessened by that vote. It is not necessary that I should detail the events at the close of the spring session of 1863. It is enough to say, that the embarrassments which then beset the administration were of a very serious nature. I was left with about one third of the Administration which had been formed in 1862, but I felt I had still a task before me which I should accomplish, and I invited gentlemen to fill the situations which had been rendered vacant by the resignation of my former colleagues; and, on looking back on what then took place, I say now I have nothing to regret in regard to my own conduct in relation to that matter, and certainly I had nothing to regret in regard to the choice I made on that occasion. I had confidence in the gentlemen who had honored me with their co-operation, and joined the government, and went together to the country. And while on this subject, I may say that since you, Mr. Speaker, joined the Government, succeeding the Hon. Adam Wilson, now Mr. Justice Wilson who left us, to take a seat on the bench, and during the whole existence of the McDonald-Dorion Government, a more harmonious and cordial co-operation could not have existed between twelve men than has existed from that day to this between myself and colleagues. (Hear hear.) There is no truth whatever in reports to the contrary which have been put in circulation for very obvious purposes. I pass over that to recall the attention of the House to circumstances connected with our appeal to the country in 1863. We found as usual a vast amount of natural opposition to the Government, and opposition to the way in which it was organized, but, judging by the number of members who, in their addresses to their electors, did not object the organization of the Government, or question the propriety of our appealing to the country, and who declared they were prepared to give fair play the McDonald-Dorion Government, we had every reason to believe that when Parliament assembled we should stand firmly sustained by a majority which would enable us to carry on the affairs of the country with satisfaction to the people at large. We had reason to expect this, although, of course various conjectures were indulgent in as to the sincerity of the professions of those who had proclaimed to their constituents that they had no party obligation which bound them to this side of the House, or to the other, but that they were prepared to generally give the Administration fair play. We met Parliament as early as possible after the general election. We felt that we owed it as a duty to the country to haste with all possible speed to ask the House to confirm the disbursements of public money we found it necessary to make for public purposes for we thought it due to the people of this country that we should not continue for one moment longer than we could help to make appropriations of public money without that sanction which all constitutional usage has pointed out as the best safeguard of the rights and privileges of the people with regard to expenditures from the public treasury. We felt also that there was another measure which called for our immediate attention, and that was to render more perfect the system of our militia and volunteer organizations. Having those objects in view we summoned Parliament for the fall session at certainly an inconvenient season. But at the outset we met with opposition where we certainly had no right to expect opposition of such a character as was offered to your election as Speaker—coming from parties whom I did not intend to name, nor is it my desire in addressing the House on this occasion to claim more than the liberty generally accorded to those in my position, of giving explanations such as are usually deemed proper to give on the eve of an announcement such as I am about to make. I do not allude therefore to this by way of recrimination, nor do I desire to mention the names of any parties, but as regarded those who had gone to their constituents, and claimed support on the grounds I have mentioned and who would not have been on the floor of this house but for the support they received from the large party who were professedly and avowedly supporters of our Government, I think that at all events on the principle of fair play which they professed, they should not have made a political question out of the election of Speaker Members, however, had no doubt the right to express their opinion as to who should preside over the deliberations of this House, and we found we carried the election of Speaker by a small majority. Immediately afterwards we were met by a strong party vote on a question arising out of the Essex Election. On that question we found our majority diminished from what it was on the question of your election as Speaker. We found then that the expectations which had been formed with regard to the members returned to give us fair play were not to be realized, and before we had time scarcely to consider what our real positions was we were met by charges of a personal nature, made against two or three members of the Government, involving their personal honor and personal veracity. The attack upon us was of so determined a character and of so direct a nature, that respect for ourselves and our own position demanded that we should not shrink from the ordeal of an appeal to the majority of this house with reference to those charges. I shall allude no further to that subject beyond saying that we succeeded at all events in having a majority of the house in our favor, and this I think showed that the subject of the accusation was not of a nature to brand us with that infamy which was sought to be fastened on us. Then another question was raised, when the member for Sherbrooke moved his motion of want of confidence, and in the discussion of that question also, attacks of a personal as well as general nature were made upon the Administration, and the smallnes of the majority by which we were sustained made our position one of no little difficulty. Still, as we had called Parliament together, in order to carry that session one or two measures of great importance, we determined that so long as we had a constitutional majority we would not retire, but would go on endeavoring to carry those measures. Soon after the failure of motion for Sherbrooke, we carried the two measures, and Parliament was prorogued, and since that period we have continued to carry on the administration of the affairs of the country in the same way as before, endeavoring to effect as much retrenchment and economy, and to do as much to secure good Government to this country as it was possible for 11 or 12 to do. (Hear, hear.) We again met the House this session, and had a debate for a fortnight upon the Address in answer to the speech from the Throne without any amendment being moved. We have thought all along that the interest of this great Province required that the legislation should be carried on by an Administration more vigorous. I do not mean as regards the ability of the members composing it, but as regards having a greater numerical strength than we have in this House, in order that the Government may be carried on with satisfaction, and in a way to realise the expectations of the people who sent us here. The gentlemen on the other side have abstained, this session, from putting to a test whether we have the majority of this House or not. We have not admitted nor do I at this moment admit that if put to a test they could carry a majority of the House against us. But we have come to the conclusion that it would not be fair or just to the people of this country, or to the House, or to ourselves, that we should maintain any longer a position in which our majority is so small that we cannot promote the necessary and useful measures which the people of this country expect at our hands; and that the time has come when the gentlemen opposite not having made the trial of strength which was the constitutional mode of attempting to displace us, we ourselves should make a fair acknowledgment of the difficulty of our position, and place our resignation, as we have done, unanimously in the hands of His Excellency. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. Turcotte—Why did you not wait for that trial of strength?

Mr. McGee—You should have done it long ago.

Attorney-General McDonald—The remark of the hon. member will not provoke me to recriminate. I rose to state frankly and fairly the position we are now in, and not to make or provoke attack of any kind. We have all along been sustained—not only the McDonald-Sicotte, but the McDonald-Dorion Adminstation, with a cordiality and devotion, such as probably never was exceeded by the support given to any former Administration by this House. To my friends behind me I owe much more than I can express. They may not have approved of our Administration in every respect, yet they have believed we were going in the proper direction in regard to carrying on the affairs of the Province with satisfaction to the people at large and they have supported us accordingly. My colleagues and myself owe to them the deepest gratitude for their unwavering attachment, for no one has left us. I do not, of course, speak of those who, after using language in addressing their constituents which might have war-