# Huron Signal.

WEEKLY EDITION.

W. T. COX, Editor and Proprietor.] The Greatest Possible Good to the Greatest Possible Number."

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## IN THE BOX.

(From Chambers's Journal.)

### MR. DRUMFICH'S STORY.

*(Continued.)*

The two sisters, on reaching home, had hurried to the chamber which they shared in common, and embraced a thousand times, and wept a thousand tears, but not of sorrow; had breathed a simple prayer of thanksgiving to the Giver of all good gifts; and now, with ornaments laid aside, in simple homely dress, descended to the parlor. A frugal supper was laid, but contentment made of it a feast, and all fell to with hungry zest on *Dickmilch Butterbrod*, and the like uncostly fare. But the blood of the noble vine was there; there was Steinwein, precious and old, than which no better ever gushed from the clusters that hang at Wurzburg. For occasions such as this, Herr Tannhauser had kept it; and filling a glass with the sparkling treasure, he drank: 'The health of the Blackbird! God bless and prosper her! May her success to-night foreshadow her success at Vienna!'

'*Es lebe die Amsel!*' cried Hermann, repeating the words of the shout at the theatre.

'God bless thee, Aennchen,' said Adelaida, as she tossed her bumper bravely down.

Then Aennchen returned thanks; but her heart was full; she had scarce words enough for 'Thanks, dear father,' as she put her arms about his neck and kissed his beaming face, saluted Hermann sisterly, and threw herself into Adelaida's arms. Soon the two sisters rose to retire, and Aennchen said, as she bade good-night: 'God grant the next success I have may find us all as happy as this!'

'Amen! my child,' her father answered; 'twere hard, indeed, to be more happy.'

And Hermann and the old man were left alone.

As a matter of course, seeing that they were Germans, they were soon hidden from each other by clouds of tobacco smoke; but as it is by no means necessary in a friendly conversation, where you have no desire to try the effect of the human eye upon your collocutor, that you should see him, it formed no bar to their conversation.

'How sweetly,' said Herr Tannhauser, 'our Blackbird sang. Never before, I think, were her tones so clear; the duke seemed quite enchanted, and so did the Baroness von Edelstein, who is acknowledged to be the first court-judge.'

'Yes,' rejoined Hermann, 'and our dear Aennchen was so self-possessed, than which nothing is more necessary to secure success. I cannot think how she acquired such self-possession.'

'She trusts in God,' said the old man sternly; 'of whom then, should she be afraid? She exercises her talents to the best of her ability; what, then, should make her nervous? Nervousness results either from vanity or from shocks to the system, or from constitutional weakness; from none of which, thank Heaven, does Aennchen as yet suffer.'

He paused a moment, and then continued: 'But I should like to hear this Nightingale of whom they talk so much: she came out last season, I believe, at Vienna.'

'She did,' answered Hermann. 'My aunt heard her, and tells me her voice is truly marvellous; but it I understand her, it is a thought coarse; powerful, certainly, but rather peculiar than pleasing; she carries you by storm, and not by regular approaches; whereas our Blackbird's notes appeal to the heart, steal the affections, win the sympathies.'

'I fear, my son,' returned the old man, with a smile, 'that we are hardly impartial judges in such a case as the comparative excellences of blackbirds and nightingales.'

And so they chatted till the night was far advanced. At length Hermann departed to his own lodgings; and the old man wended his way to bed, to dream of blackbirds and nightingales and *prima donne*, and showers of bouquets and shouts of applause, and grand ducal, and even royal and imperial 'bravas,' and courtiers' noiseless tapping of gloved hands, and obsequious managers, and large salaries, and endless 'last appearances'—but suddenly in his dream there was like the snap of a violin-string, and at the snap he awoke. But all was well, and he felt asleep again.

After her success, Aennchen sang constantly, and as constantly improved in voice, and in favor with both court and people; so that managers, hearing of her fame, came from far to judge for themselves, listened to her warbling, and were charmed; and offered for her services terms which made her father's eyes sparkle. At London, Paris, or Vienna, his Aennchen might now with confidence make her grand debut, and if successful—as there was but little doubt she would be—might take her stand upon the ground of the famous Tiddler, and join in the pastime which is there in vogue. An agreement, therefore, was soon entered into that, at the expiration of a few months, Aennchen should commence an engagement at Vienna, and that she should be announced in the playbills as *Die Amsel von Karlsruhe.*

Herr Tannhauser's heart leaped within him; he had fulfilled, he had every reason to hope, the dying request of his wife; his long years of toil were about to be rewarded.—Already he saw in imagination both his daughters well settled in life—one married to a well-born man of moderate means; the other, with a fortune acquired by her own talents and his superintendence, wedded—it might well be—to one of high estate. 'Prudens futuri temporis exitum caliginosa nocte premit Deus.'

The months had flown; the time was drawing near for Aennchen's departure for Vienna. All were in the highest spirits. Hermann in the eighth heaven. He was continually pulling from his pocket, as if by accident, a little box, which, when opened, displayed to view a small plain gold ring; and the sight of this ring always produced a similar impression upon each of four persons—namely, Herr Tannhauser, Aennchen, Adelaida, and Hermann. The first (it was not a particularly witty family, and enjoyed very small jokes) always wondered whose finger it would fit; the second and third always kissed one another; the third always blushed; and the fourth always earnestly declared that he couldn't think what it was he had in his pocket, and only took it out to see what it was.

For Hermann and Adelaida, it was arranged should be married a week after Aennchen's first appearance at Vienna; bridemaids had been selected amongst the relations at Vienna of the late Frau Tannhauser; the dresses had been ordered; the breakfast was to be given at the hotel where the Tannhausers would put up; and the clergyman had been engaged to perform the ceremony. Moreover, a circumstance had transpired lately which tended to increase the general hilarity.

Herr Tannhauser, contrary to his wont, had left home for a short time, refusing to say whither he was going, or explain himself further than to inform his wondering family that business required his temporary absence. When he returned, however, so joyous was his look, that it was pretty plain his business had been of a satisfactory nature. As his daughters and Hermann rushed to meet him at his little garden-gate, 'It's all right!' he shouted cheerily; 'I've seen her.'

'What is all right?' exclaimed three voices together—'and whom have you seen, pray?'

'I tell you I have seen her, and what is more, I've heard her too.'

'But whom have you both seen and heard—the Sphinx?' said Hermann; 'and did you by shrewd answers drive her to suicide, as you will me by your enigmatical assertions? I adjure you by your duty towards me as your son-in-law elect that you tell me instantly whom you have seen.'

'I can guess,' said Adelaida, but Aennchen was pale and silent.

'Clever miss!' said her father: 'and pray, whom have I seen?'

'The Nightingale,' was the reply; 'I'm sure it is the Nightingale.'

'The Nightingale!' echoed Hermann; but Aennchen's color went and came, and not a word escaped her lips.

'Yes, the Nightingale,' said Herr Tannhauser. 'I heard she was to sing the very part which Aennchen is to take at her debut, and I determined to go at any cost, and learn what Aennchen has to fear.'

'And what do you say?' cried Hermann and Adelaida together; but Aennchen was still silent, and still her color came and went.

'I to say she has nothing to fear,' was the answer, 'would be simply telling an untruth, for a more magnificent voice I never heard; but Aennchen's has more compass, more sweetness, more flexibility, and I feel as confident as to the result as I do that grace and dexterity are more than a match for less wieldy force. Not that I would have you for a moment to infer that the Nightingale has not great skill; but Aennchen's is still more exquisite, still more subtle;' and Herr Tannhauser kissed his Blackbird encouragingly.—Then the color remained in Aennchen's cheeks, and Hermann and Adelaida breathed more freely.

And now the eventful day arrived when they were to start by *Eilwagen* (or diligence) on their journey to the Kaiserstadt. They arrived in safety, and as they drove to their hotel up Karnthnerstrasse, they saw, not without a shudder, the opera-house where Aennchen's fortunes would be made or marred. But a few nights intervened, and then the evening of her trial would come: on one of those nights the dreaded Nightingale would sing, and the question was debated whether Aennchen should go and hear her or not. It was decided that she should, and good results were due to that decision, for it soon got rumored about that she was in the house; hundreds of opera-glasses opened fire upon her, and she grew half accustomed to the eye-artillery of those who would be her judges. She was enabled to form an opinion as to the power she must exert to fill the house when full—so different a feat from filling it at a chea rate; she was distracted from dwelling too much upon her own approaching trial, and she could thus measure herself in her own mind with the only person who was likely to be her rival.

The Nightingale sang, and Aennchen was electrified. Such powerful tones she had never heard, but low to her own heart she whispered confidently: 'My power is less, my art is more: the dear father was right; I have more compass and more sweetness: I feel I cannot fail.' And a noble feeling of emulation was roused within her, which moved her to excel herself, just as in olden time a gallant knight was inspired to do the more worshipfully the lustier was his adversary.

'What thinkest thou, Aennchen?' her father said as they parted for the night.

'Dear father, a still small voice within assures me I cannot fail,' was the simple trustful answer.

'Good night, then, my child. God bless and strengthen thee; may thy sleep refresh thee, and thy dreams confirm thee.'

'Good-night, dear Aennchen,' chimed Hermann and Adelaida; 'to-morrow we will greet thee Queen of Song.' And the four parted cheerfully for the night.

But again that night, Herr Tannhauser's dreams were troubled, and he was waked by a sound like the snap of a violin-string. Still, all was well, and he slept again.

The morning came, and with it the rehearsal; the critics were profuse in praise; the managers, consequently, was charmed and dissolved in compliments. Slowly, too slowly the day declined, but at last the eventful hour arrived. Herr Tannhauser had obtained permission to play in the orchestra, that the sight of him might tend to familiarise Aennchen with her new position; and Hermann and Adelaida were ensconced behind the side-scenes; no once more Aennchen felt a consciousness of support as her father gazed fondly up from below, and her sister and her sister's lover breathed courage upon her from the side. The opera was once more the *Sonnambula*. The house was crowded in every part; and when Amina entered in the third scene, she was received with a burst of applause, so graceful was her bearing. But it was evident that at first the audience did not appreciate her voice; that it was uncommon, they could feel, but it required time to work its subtle effects; and at the conclusion of the first act there was evidently a division of feeling. Some applauded vehemently, but they were few, and the elegance of her acting might have accounted for that; for in her plain white dress she looked like an angel from above. But the majority kept a dead silence. Some few, being in doubt, hissed, just as, under the same circumstances at whist, they would play a trump.

Herr Tannhauser was in despair; moreover, a string of his violin snapped, and he bethought him of his dream; he heeded evil; he saw the toil of years, unfruitful, the hopes of years blighted; his eyes grew dim, and his soul fainted within him. But soon his courage revived; the applause at last was more generally diffused. It came at first in those faint, random, dropping beats that resemble the plash of big raindrops, the precursors of a thunder-shower; then it grew louder and more regular; and *Ah! non giunge* was received with an uproar. Aennchen must twice repeat it, and bouquets and wreaths, wreaths and bouquets fell around her as she sang, till the stage was a garden of flowers. She was called before the curtain to hear repeated shouts of '*Es lebe die Amsel!*' and every one turned to his neighbor and said: '*Sie hat die Nachtigall überwunden.*' (She has beaten the Nightingale.)

But the revulsion of feeling was too much for Herr Tannhauser. The snap of the violin-string was no lying omen; his nerves had been strung a peg too high; a chord in his brain had burst asunder, and he fell to the ground insensible. So the victory that night was turned into mourning in the family of the Tannhausers.

Aennchen and Adelaida and Hermann had all been unconscious of Herr Tannhauser's fall. Aennchen as she had made her last courtesy on retiring, had just caught a glimpse of her father's face, and had seen him start up excitedly from his seat; but beyond that, she had seen nothing. She was clasped in mutual, speechless joy in Adelaida's arms, with Hermann watching them sympathizingly, whilst he to whom she owed both, her being and her success lay senseless in the arms of strangers. Strangers conveyed him to his hotel, laid him in bed with all gentleness, and summoned a physician with all dispatch. But how to break the news to Aennchen? All the strangers shrank from that. Envy herself would scarce have liked to whisper such news in the ears of a successful *debutante*. Now, disagreeable business is considered the perquisite of managers; on the manager, therefore, devolved the responsibility of preparing our happy trio for the shock which awaited their return.

He was approaching them with the side-long gait of a bearer of ill-tidings just as Adelaida had said: 'I wonder what can detain the dear father; he should have joined us long ago. But here is Herr Nickel, he can no doubt give us information. Pray, Herr Nickel, have you seen my father?'

(TO BE CONTINUED.)

## Huron Signal.

GODERICH, C. W., FEB. 12, 1864.

### A BATCH OF FIBS DISPOSED OF.

Our contemporary of the Quebec *Mercury* thus disposes of a batch of the precious stories put in circulation within the past week or two by the Opposition Press. There is but little use in killing the innocents, however, for a fresh lot will be sure to spring up like mushrooms in a hot-bed. There is no doubt but there are thousands who believe implicitly in these fabrications, and spread them about with lavish zeal. If it affords gentlemen of the opposition a single grain of comfort it should not be grudged, for it is sadly needed:

"Were it possible by lying to overthrow the Macdonald Dorion Administration, we apprehend that its existence would be of brief duration. Every day brings forth its heap of falsehoods, bearing the stamp of the opposition mint, and thrown into circumstances with a prodigality that would soon exhaust all ordinary resources.

One of these inventions alleges that overtures have been made by the Premier to members of the opposition, by whom they are said to have been "indignantly spurned." The statement is untrue. No such overture has been made by the Premier or by any other member of the government.

It is said, again, that negotiations are on foot to induce Mr. Dickson, the representative of Huron and Bruce, to resign his seat in favor of Mr. Solicitor General Richards.—The answer is, that such negotiations have not been undertaken or even thought of, by the government or by anybody in its behalf.

Yet again, the evening edition of the Montreal 'Gazette' reports a case in which opposition virtue, being assailed, comes out of the furnace brighter than refiner's gold. This is its contribution to the list of current lies:

"The premier is trying to play the Sicotte game over again: Mr. Parke, the Collector of Customs at St. Catharines, having died recently, Mr. Sandfield Macdonald has offered the appointment to Mr Simpson, the member for Niagara. Mr Simpson is a prominent member of the Opposition, and his purchase would diminish its strength at the beginning of the session of Parliament one vote, while a new election might result in giving Ministers another supporter. It is believed that Mr Simpson is not to be *Sicotted*, and that the Premier will be obliged to try the virtue of his system of corruption in another quarter."

"It may suit Mr Simpson's purpose, perhaps, to be talked of as a man whom ministers would like to have out of the way. If so, we regret to be obliged to spoil his little game of self glorification. For it is not true that the vacant collectorship at St. Catharines, or any other office within the gift of the government, has been offered to Mr. Simpson by Mr. Sandfield Macdonald or anybody else.

There is another falsehood, having its origin in Quebec:

"The Quebec *Chronicle* says that in consequence of the dismissal of Brigade Major Bellefeuille, Col. Blanchet and the officers of the Levis Infantry Regiment (77th Battalion, V. M. I.,) have resigned *en masse*."

The Militia Department has cognizance of only one resignation, directly or indirectly connected with the circumstance referred to; and we are informed that *that* resignation is not an insurmountable calamity.

We have no expectation that the denial we give to these "specimen bricks" will prevent their continued use by the opposition. They will be used as frequently as though their falsity had not been exposed; and other stories will follow them, equally groundless and unjust. The Opposition, we suppose, cannot afford to speak the truth."

We have learned with regret that the Government still insist on payment of our Railway debt. A warrant under the hand and seal of Lord Monck was yesterday placed in the hands of the Sheriff, directing him to levy forthwith the sum of $31,980, with interest, which will bring it to about $10,000, or more than three times the assessment of last year! There is a doubt whether the rate can be struck by the Sheriff before September, and if it cannot, there is a hope it may not be exacted at all, as this miserable Government will then be no more.—*Cobourg Sentinel.*

All very well, Mr. *Sentinel*, but will the hoped-for change of Government by which you may be allowed to *repudiate* your just debts, also pay back to Huron and Bruce the large amount remitted to Quebec to pay up the interest due by the Municipality—on account of the Municipal Loan Fund? *We* have been paying *your* interest and sinking fund, and now you want to repudiate and leave us in the lurch.—That is "fair play" and anti-corruption with a vengeance! If one municipality pays its debts let all do it, and the sooner the Government puts on the screws the better.

B. N. A. ALMANAC FOR 1864.—We have received from the enterprising publisher, John Lovell, Montreal, a copy of this truly valuable book. The object of the publisher in this new work is to furnish full and accurate information on every subject connected with the institutions, statistics and internal affairs of Canada, and we must say that he has succeeded to perfection. In our opinion it is far superior to anything of the kind yet issued in the Province, and if continued from year to year will be sure to find a place upon the desk of every business man. The number for 1865 will be issued in November next. James Kirby, M. A. B. C. D., of Montreal, is the editor.

### THANKFUL FOR SMALL FAVORS!

The *Leader* seems to derive a grain of comfort from Mr. Dickson's honestly-expressed opinion with regard to the ability of John A., but it must require a great stretch of imagination to infer that our member could have any desire to see him return to power. Indeed, it would have been impossible for anyone to condemn the acts of a Ministry more heartily than Mr Dickson did the Cartier MacDonald coalition, and he has too much shrewd common sense to put faith in a statesman, who with all his acknowledged ability, has for eight long years systematically sold the people of Upper Canada, and refused them the justice he knew to be their due. The whole tenor of Mr. Dickson's speech showed that he was determined to support the present Ministry to the full extent of his ability. While we leave the *Leader* to its crumb of consolation, we wonder *it* did not do Mr. Dickson the justice of copying the denial with regard to the charge of his being about to make way for the Solicitor-General. That, we suppose, would look too much like stultification.

### PERTH WAKING UP.

It seems, according to the Stratford *Examiner*, that Perth has come suddenly to grief, the Sheriff having, on Monday last, served the Treasurer with a writ for $18,000, "being a portion of the arrears due by the County to the Municipal Loan Fund." The *Examiner* comes down upon the Government with a heavy hand for its stern and apparently determined action in the premises.

### HULLETT COUNCIL.

JANUARY 18, 1864.

The gentlemen elected Councillors for 1864 met this day according to Statute, and having made and subscribed their declarations of qualification and of office, Clerk being Chairman.

It was moved by Mr. Warwick, seconded by Mr. Longbottom, That Mr. Morgan be Reeve for the present year.—Carried.

Moved by Mr. Longbottom, seconded by Mr. Warwick, That Mr. Snell be Deputy Reeve for the present year.—Carried.

Reeve and Deputy Reeve made and subscribed their declarations of office

Moved by Mr. Warwick, seconded by Mr. Warner, That George Watt, junr., be the assessor for the present year.—Carried.

Moved by Mr. Snell, seconded by Mr. Longbottom, That Hugh Archer, junr., be the Collector for the present year.—Carried.

Moved by Mr. Warwick, seconded by Mr. Snell, That James Allen, senr., be Auditor for the present year.—Carried.

Auditor appointed by Reeve, John McMillan.

Moved by Mr. Snell, seconded by Mr. Warner, That Gabriel Spring be Inspector of Licenses for the Western, and William Coldwell for the Eastern Division of Hullett. Carried.

Moved by Mr. Snell, seconded by Mr. Warner, that Thomas Sloan be Clerk and Tr. for the current year.—Carried.

Moved by Mr Snell, seconded by Mr. Warner, That the salaries of the Assessor, Collector, Clerk, Treasurer and Auditors be the same as last year.—Carried.

Moved by Mr. Warwick, seconded by Mr. Longbottom, That $5 be paid for gravel to Francis Fowler, and $2.04 to Wm. Hitchcock from Township funds.—Carried.

Moved by Mr. Longbottom, seconded by Mr. Warner, That Leithfield Rands be paid one dollar, and charge to Ward number 1.—Carried.

Moved by Mr. Snell, seconded by Mr. Longbottom, That the petition of J. Southcombe and others be granted.—Carried.

Petition was that they might perform their Statute labor in winter by drawing gravel.

Moved by Mr. Warwick, seconded by Mr. Snell, That $1.12 be paid to A. Stephenson, error asst.—Carried.

Moved by Mr. Warner, seconded by Mr. Warwick, That Mr. Snell visit Mr. Flynn's residence, Lot 13, con 6, in reference to Mrs. Cleaton's circumstances, and report at next meeting.—Carried.

Moved by Mr. Snell, seconded by Mr. Warwick, That the Clerk procure two Municipal Manuals for wards 1 and 4.—Carried.

Moved by Mr Snell, seconded by Mr Warner, That two bridges be erected, one on side road 5 and 6, con 4, 1 and lot 18, con 8 and 9, that Mr Longbottom draw plan and specification for bridge side road 5 and 6, and procure plan and specification of the other bridge from the late Reeve, and that both bridges be let by the Reeve, at Londesboro, Feb 3rd, at 1 o'clock, p m, contracting parties to furnish sureties for the performance of the same. Carried.

Moved by Mr Snell, seconded by Mr Warwick, That this Council feel much pleasure in stating that Charles Morrow, Esq., late Reeve, deserves the thanks of the Ratepayers of Hullett, not only for his able, patient and honorable conduct at the Council Board, but also for his persevering efforts in the County Council towards obtaining a due measure of justice for our Township, and we believe this sentiment will be reciprocated by the Electors generally, and that the Clerk furnish Mr Morrow with a copy of motion—Carried.

Moved by Mr Snell, seconded by Mr Warwick, That the sum of $125 be appropriated to each ward for the current year.

Moved by Mr Warwick, seconded by Mr Snell, That the sum of $40 be paid J. Dunivan, charitable donation.—Carried.

Moved by Mr Snell, seconded by Mr. Longbottom, That the Council do now adjourn to meet again at Londesboro, on Monday 29th day of February, at ten o'clock, A. M.

THOMAS SLOAN,
Township Clerk.

SERVED HIM RIGHT.—Says an English paper, "Some weeks since the new act of parliment for flogging garrotors was first put in force in Horsemonger Lane gaol. At the Kingston winter assizes a man named Frederick Cox was convicted of garroting an old gentleman at Guildford, and sentenced to five years' penal servitude, and in addition to receive twenty-five lashes with the cat-o'-nine-tails in the county gaol. The punishment was duly inflicted after which the convict was removed to Millbank prison. While the punishment was being inflicted by one of the turnkeys, a man of war's man the prisoner yelled in a frightful manner.

### REPORT OF REV. J. W. SIMS,

*Local Supt of Schools for the Townships of Ashfield, Wawanosh, Colborne and Hullett, in the County of Huron.*

To the Warden and Councillors of the Municipal Council of the United Counties of Huron and Bruce.

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honor to submit this my first Report, as Local Superintendent for the District above specified. I received this appointment on the 17th of December last, in consequence of the resignation of Dr. Pritchard, and I am sorry to say that that gentleman left me no papers or documents from which to obtain any information respecting the Schools, or concerning the duties of my office. The whole of the semi annual Returns for the first half year of 1863, are either mislaid or destroyed; no trace of them can be found, so that my Report to the Chief Superintendent must necessarily be defective this year. Many complaints have been made to me by the Trustees of different sections respecting the unjust apportionment of the Government Grant, and other matters, these, together with the difficulty of finding out the various Post offices to which the blanks were to be sent, necessitated a large correspondence, involving considerable outlay in postage. I am glad to say that I have now arranged matters so as to be able to know the whereabouts of most of the Schools. Owing to the shortness of the time intervening between my appointment and the present meeting of your honorable Council, I have been unable to visit all the Schools in the District; but the visits I have made have been all of the most thorough character, and I am sorry to report that in several cases I found the schools in a very backward state. Some of the Teachers, owing probably to the infrequent visits of the Superintendent, have become indolent, while others who desire to see their schools improve have not been stimulated and encouraged as they ought. Some again, are not suited to their profession, not enough that a teacher should be able to answer all the questions put when at the examination before the Board of Public Instruction, (even if he be able to do this), but he should be able to impart efficiently that knowledge which he possesses to his pupils; and if he be not able to do this, he is of no practical use as a teacher. As is the teacher so will be the pupils, and the school. If he be lively, intelligent and strive to interest the scholars, the school will soon show evidences of his skill, but if he be careless, a conpound of indolence and incompetence, as too many are, or if he act only as a mere machine, to go through a certain routine, and receive his wages as a hireling, his school will never become that which will reflect credit on himself or his scholars.

Of the forty Schools in my District I have visited nineteen, viz:—Nos. 1, 2, 6, 8, 9, 10 and 11 in Ashfield. Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 in Wawanosh, and Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4, 6 in Colborne, spending in one a whole day, and in the others time varying from two to three hours, and at the conclusion delivering an address to the teacher and pupils. As directed by the School Manual, I made my first visit except, I believe, in two cases, without giving any previous notice. There are some of the teachers who deserve great credit for the pains they take in the discharge of their duties. I may mention some of these in next Report, should I receive the honor of a re-appointment, but to attempt to classify the schools of a part of my District before visiting the whole, would I think be unfair to the rest.

Many complaints are made by the teachers, of the want of books in their schools; that parents will not in many cases provide them for their children, that sometimes two or three are compelled to study from one book, or be entirely deprived of a lesson. Now this is manifestly unfair both to the teacher and the scholars.

I would suggest that some provision should be made to meet this difficulty. Either that the Trustees provide the necessary books required by the teacher and charge them to the general expense account of their respective sections, or that the teacher provide them, and charge them to the parents on a rate-bill, so that the scholar who may be willing and anxious to improve may not be retarded in his progress, and the teacher may have no excuse to offer on that score as to the backwardness of his scholars.

I would also suggest the propriety of doing away with Third Class Certificates, except in special cases, as they are very frequently the source of much harm to a section; and encourage a set of teachers who would be doing their country more service at the plough or in the woods than in the schoolroom. There is a precedent for the adoption of such a course. I am credibly informed that the Board of Public Instruction for the County of Wellington has refused to grant Third Class Certificates, except in special cases where candidates bring a written request from the Trustees of a particular section, stating their peculiar circumstances and their intention to employ said teacher if so licensed. Our standard of qualification for Second Class Teachers is low enough; indeed I consider it too low for the status of a Teacher at the present time; and those who are unable to come up to the requirements of that "Programme," are I think unfit to have charge of a school.—Teachers are by no means scarce now; and a good salary will always command a good teacher, and I believe if the course I recommend were adopted, we should soon see an improvement in the condition of our rural schools. I am anxious that our schools should really be what they were intended—an advantage and a blessing to our people, the means of training up the youth of our country to be useful in their day and generation and a credit to the noble system of education of which Canada may justly be proud.

I have the honor to be,
Gentlemen,
Your most ob'dt serv't,
JABEZ W. SIMS, Loc. Sup.

SAMBO TOO CUTE FOR UNCLE SAM.—A short time ago a colored man, named Thomas who formally sold paint in Montreal, while under the influence of a philanthropic fever and probably anxious for a supply of the needful, left Canada for the States, and boldly enlisted in the first Michigan colored regiment. He received $100 bounty and other advantages, but not liking the slavery of freedom, and unwilling to risk his valuable life in battling for negro emancipation, or Yankee supremacy in the south, determined to desert to his happy land of Canaan north of the line 45°. The consequence was that Thomas astonished his Canadian friends a few days ago by appearing in sky blue shoddy uniform, with his fire-lock on his shoulder, having skedaddled with Uncle Sam's greenbacks in his pocket and material broadcloth on his back. Sambo appeared to be highly pleased with his exploit, justifying his conduct by the example of white men who deserted every day. Having sold the Yankees so cleverly he gave the finishing stroke by disposing of his rifle for $5.

☞ The Sultan of Turkey possesses the swiftest vessel afloat. It is a steam yacht, named the *Tullah*, and was built by Mr. Samuda, of Blackwall, England. Her burden is over 1,100 tons. Space is sacrificed to machinery, the whole object of the vessel being speed. She ran 45 miles in two hours and five minutes, with the tide part of the way against her. Her speed is that of an average railway train.

### GUIDE TO ASSESSORS.

SERVICE ENROLMENT IN UPPER CANADA.

6. The mode of enrolment of the Militia shall, in Upper Canada, be as follows, that is to say:—the Assessor or Assessors for each Municipality in Upper Canada shall, annually, commencing with the year one thousand eight hundred and sixty-four, and at the same time when they are engaged in taking the Assessment of real and personal property in their respective Municipalities, include in their Assessment Roll, the names and residences of all male persons in their respective Municipalities, between the ages of eighteen and sixty years; and they shall prepare three additional columns in such Assessment Roll, which shall be headed respectively "First Class Service Militia Roll," "Second Class Service Militia Roll" and "Reserve Militia Roll,"—and they shall insert in the "First Class Service Militia Roll" the names of all male persons of 18 years of age and upwards, but under 45 years, who are unmarried men or widowers without children, and in the "Second Class Service Militia Roll," the names of all male persons of eighteen years of age and upwards but under forty-five years, who are married men or widowers with children, and in the "Reserve Militia Roll," the names of such persons, as are forty-five years of age and upwards, but under sixty years; and the copy required by Law to be made of any such Assessment Roll for transmission to the County Clerk, shall contain the additions herein specified; and in addition to any oath or certificate required under the present or any future Laws of this Province, to be taken by such Assessor or Assessors, in respect to the Assessment Roll, there shall also be made and attached to the said Roll the following certificate signed by such Assessor or Assessors;

"I do certify that I have truly and faithfully to the best of my knowledge, information and belief, set down, in the above Militia Rolls, the names of all male persons within the Municipality of (*as the case may be*), liable to be enrolled by the Militia Laws of this Province;" and such certificate shall be verified by him, or them, upon oath, before a Justice of the Peace.—*Militia Act, 27 Vic. cap. 2.*

1. The treasurer of every county in Upper Canada shall furnish to the clerk of each municipality in the county a list of all the lands patented or described for patent in his municipality, in respect of which any taxes shall have been in arrear for five years preceding the first of January in any year, and the said list shall be so furnished during the month of January in every year, and shall be headed in the words following—"List of Lands liable to be sold for arrears of taxes in the year 18—." And for the purposes of this Act, the taxes for the fifth year preceding shall be deemed to have been due for five years, although the same may not have been placed upon a collection roll until some month in the year later than the month of January.

2. The clerk of every municipality in each county is hereby required to keep the said list so furnished by the county treasurer, on file in his office, subject to the inspection of any person requiring to see the same; and he shall also deliver to the assessor or assessors of the municipality each year, as soon as such assessor or assessors are appointed, a copy of such list; and it shall be the duty of the assessor or assessors to ascertain if any of the lots or parcels of land contained in such list are occupied, and to notify such occupants and the owners thereof if known of the amount of taxes due on each such lot, and enter in a column (reserved for the purpose) the words "occupied and parties notified," or "not occupied, and parties notified," as the case may be; all such lists shall be signed by the assessor or assessors, and returned to the clerk with the assessment roll, and the clerk shall file the same in his office for public use; and every such list, or copy thereof, certified by the clerk, shall be received in any court as evidence in any case arising concerning the assessment of such lands; and the duties hereinbefore imposed upon the treasurer of any county or union of counties, and the clerk and assessor or assessors of any municipality, or counties shall be preformed by the chamberlain or treasurer, and the clerks and assessors of cities and towns withdrawn from the jurisdiction of the council of the county in which such cities and towns are situate.

2. All Assessors shall attach to each such list a certificate signed by them and verified by oath or affirmation, in the form following:

"I do certify that I have examined "all the lots in this list named, and that "I have entered the names of all occu- "pants thereon, as well as the names of "the owners thereof, when known, and "that all the entries relative to each lot "are true and correct, to the best of my "knowledge and belief."—27 *Vic. cap.* 19.

CONVICTION FOR BLASPHEMY.—Amongst the cases brought before the Criminal Court in Three Rivers, was one of blasphemy.—Judge Polette instructed the grand jury that the crime of blasphemy consisted principally in "words or speeches; which either outrage the Diety or insult religion or the Holy Scripture;" and that if sufficient proof was adduced of such an offence having been committed, it was their duty to commit the delinquent. The grand jury accordingly found a true bill against Adolphe Mathon, who pleaded guilty. Being tried in court on the following day, 3rd instant, the accused was declared guilty; and the judge, after a touching exortation, says *L'Ere Nouvelle*, sentenced Mathon to three months' imprisonment to hard labor, and to a fine of five dollars; the imprisonment to continue until payment in full.—*Montreal Witness.*

BIG SHELED SOLDIERS.—The Chicago *Journal* says:—"A requisition has been made on Captain Potter for the colored regiment at Quincy. The sizes were so enormous that they could not be procured here, and the captain had to telegraph to Washington to know what was to be done. He was ordered to have the regimental feet measured, and send the result to Washington, so that the boots would be constructed there. The sizes range from 10's to 20's. This regiment will be apt to "trample on the rights of the South."

### FRIGHTFUL RAILWAY ACCIDENT.

A terrible accident took place on the Grand Trunk, near Georgetown on Wednesday the 10th inst., the particulars of which we extract from the *Globe*:—

The Grand Trunk Railway, a short distance west of Georgetown Station, crosses over the River Credit by one of the largest bridges on the road. It is substantially constructed in the usual manner, and is peculiar only as being one of the highest—if not the highest—bridges on the road, it being no less than one hundred and twenty-five feet from the surface of the river to the floor of the bridge. The river at this point is very shallow, being at this season of the year not more than two or three feet in depth, and almost completely frozen over.

About eight o'clock on Tuesday morning, as No. 15 freight train, from Sarnia, was approaching this bridge, it was noticed by those on the train that an axletree of one of the rear cars was broken. The engine driver, on being notified of the fact, at once whistled "6 blows down," but owing to ice on the track, and the train being on the down grade, the brakes did not have the usual effect on the wheels, and the train could not be stopped as quickly as under ordinary circumstances. At the time the defect in the axletree was discovered, the train was within about two hundred yards of the bridge, and going at the ordinary rate of speed. The persons on the train did all in their power to stop it, for they knew also the danger there was in their entering on it while anything was amiss with the train. All their efforts, however, were unavailing, as the train still kept moving, and in a few moments entered on the bridge. The engine and tender and a number of the cars passed onward in safety, but just as the last two cars came upon the bridge, the coupling of the forward one broke. In these cars were the conductor of the train, Mr R Kennedy, and two brakesmen, Messrs J. Waddie and R. Crooker. Immediately on the parting of the train the last two cars ran off the track, dashed through the side rail of the bridge, took an awful leap into the air, and fell, with a fearful crash, into the river beneath, a distance of 125 feet. They were, of course, smashed to atoms, and three unfortunate men, who a moment before were full of vigor and life, were mangled in such a horrible manner as to be scarcely distinguishable as human beings. Their arms, bodies, heads and legs were cut, and crushed into one sickening, awful mass of creeping, jellied flesh and bone. The head of the unfortunate conductor could, at first, nowhere be found, but after searching for a while amongst the ruins, pieces of skull, face and brain, all that now remain of it, were picked up and gathered together. Information of the terrible catastrophe was at once communicated to Guelph, when assistance was sent, and the mangled bodies gathered up as best they could, and sent to Georgetown.

### Reform Demonstration at Quebec.

The dinner of the citizens of Quebec to the Administration came off on Thursday night, the 4th instant, and was a great success. About 600 took dinner, and 200 spectators were also present. The utmost enthusiasm prevailed, all the leading interests in the city being represented, indicating a strong feeling for the members of the Government.

Of the members of the Administration, there were present the Hon. J S Macdonald, Hon Messrs Dorion, Holton, McDougall, Mowatt, Blair, Letellier, Laframboise, Huntington and Thibaudeau.

The Hon Messrs J S Macdonald, Dorion and Thibaudeau replied to the toast "Members of the Administration," entering into a defence of the conduct of the Government.

Hon Mr Dorion foreshadowed a part of the Government policy—the enlargement of canals, in order to develope Western trade—and criminal law reform. In other questions, the requirements urged by public opinion were to be met.

The Hon. Messrs Letellier, Huot, Caron, Drummond and others, likewise spoke in reply to toasts.

A Paris letter to the *Independence* of Brussels gives some farther details of the four Italian conspirators:—"Greco and his accomplices were the objects of the strictest surveillance from the day of their arrival; that is to say, from the 25th Dec. On the day of the first representation of "Moise" at the Opera, all four were present awaiting the Emperor at the door of the theatre. His Majesty had been warned by the police, but he refused to take any precaution. An empty court carriage was driven up to the theatre before the arrival of the Emperor, and while in the crowd the pockets and clothes of the four Italians were felt by the police agents, to ascertain if they had any weapons or missiles concealed about them. It being found that they were armed they were not then arrested. The police had been informed by its agent that the Bois de Boulogne was to serve as the theatre of the attempt, and it was only when the Emperor refused positively to discontinue his habitual out of door exercise that the police, who wished to await the arrival, of a letter from London which was to decide the moment of putting the plot into execution, effected their arrest."

FIRE IN PLATTSVILLE.—On Friday night last, about 10 o'clock, a large tannery, owned by Mr. Platt, and leased by Park & Co., was totally destroyed by fire. The fire was first discovered in the vicinity of the furnace, from which it was supposed to have originated, as it was in use that day. Every effort on the part of the inhabitants to extinguish the flames proved unavailing, and if the wind had not been in a favorable direction, we doubt if the large flour mill close by, also owned by Mr. Platt, would have escaped destruction. Park & Co.'s loss will be about $500. All the leather, oil, &c., up stairs was destroyed, with the exception of two dozen calf skins. The hides in the vats were all saved. Mr Platt owns the building, and his loss will be about $1000. There was no insurance on either stock or building.—*Ayr Observer.*

WINTER KILLED TREES.—The Chicago *Tribune*, speaking of the effect of the recent cold weather upon peach trees, say that probably never, within the history of fruit growing in the West, has there been such widespread disease; within a grain district visited embracing a radius of from 15 to 20 miles, there are about 120,000 trees, all of which are more or less injured, many of the large ones being dead, while at best, those that remain will require two or three years to recover themselves.

☞ In the Detroit Recorder's Court, on Saturday, Emma Watson, the proprietress of a house of ill fame in that city, was put upon her trial for the murder of a soldier, named Wright. While the trial was going on, a man who was under the influence of liquor entered the court, and going behind the prisoner, pulled out a revolver from a holster at his side and levelled it at the head of the woman. His design was frustrated by the sheriff just in time to save her life; and the man, who it transpired was a brother of the murdered soldier, left the court.

### TOWN COUNCIL.

The Council met on Tuesday evening, the