Huron Signal.

GODERICH, APRIL 12, 1866.

HON. D. McDONALD ON THE TOPICS OF THE DAY.

At a social gathering held in Stratford after the recent fair, the following interesting speech was delivered by the Hon. D. McDonald. We quote from the *Beacon's* excellent report:—

Hon. Donald McDonald was greeted with loud applause, on rising to reply for the Legislative Council. He said.—Mr. President and gentleman: Under ordinary circumstances, and in ordinary times, the task of replying to the toast which has just elicited so cordial and gratifying an expression of your feeling would be comparatively easy.—Surrounded by friends in the very heart of the finest farming country in the Province, with evidence of progress and prosperity on all sides, I might content myself with a declaration of my sincere gratitude for your uniform and varied kindness, and of my disposition to do what I can to promote your interests and meet your wishes, so far as either may be effected by my action in the legislature. I might recall to your attention what the county of Perth was when first I became acquainted with it—what the difficulties were with which its early settlers had to contend, and what the exhibitions of stock and farm products amounted to when first they challenged attention in this now thriving place. I might point to the fact that what was then little more than a wilderness, with clearances few and far between, has become almost a succession of fine and fertile farms, comfortable houses, and thrifty barns, standing in the stead of the primitive shanty; and breeds of stock of which much older districts might well be proud. (Hear, hear.) That contrasting the present and past, I might honestly congratulate you upon what has been accomplished; and, without offending your modesty or my own, I might upon this basis of experience construct an estimate of the influence and prosperity which are in store for Perth and its people if the work of the future be performed with the faithfulness and energy which have distinguished the past. (Hear, hear.) Such, I repeat, in ordinary circumstances, would be the line of my remarks on an occasion of this nature. And I should feel that I had discharged my duty if I had awakened in your minds a determination to continue stedfast in your course, and to make the exhibition of each succeeding year better and more complete than that which preceded it. But, gentlemen, we are assembled in circumstances which cannot truly be designated common, and at a time which may without exaggeration be called extraordinary. (Hear, hear.) The last few weeks have been pregnant with great excitements, and have taught us more than one memorable lesson. Events have reminded us that the millenial era has not yet been reached. We may not yet venture to beat the "sword into the plough share" or the "spear into the pruning hook;" nor may we tell our children that "war shall be no more." How far the many alarms which have been sounded have been justified by the presence of actual danger, it is not for me to say. For my own part, while conscious that there has been much exaggeration from first to last, and in many instances much absurdity in the stories which have been put in circulation, I have been more inclined than many to regard the Fenian organization, not merely as meant to be mischievous, but as capable of being mischievous on this continent. [Hear, hear.] It is without doubt a powerful organization both in the United States and in the old country—powerful, I mean, in numbers, in the command of money, and in ramifications extending in every direction; so powerful, so venomous, so completely under the control of reckless adventurers, that I do not believe we have yet seen the end of it. [Hear.] From the O'Mahony side, I apprehend nothing; of all the crazy follies of the age, *that* is the most crazy.—[Cheers.] The idea of transporting a Fenian army across the Atlantic, and landing them in Ireland in fighting array, could only have originated in the mind of madmen, and can find favor only in the minds of fools. [Renewed cheers and laughter.] Sweeney's plan, on the other hand, we cannot afford to treat quite so contemptuously. Unless the United States Government interposes its authority, and in good faith enforces its laws for the maintenance of neutrality, undoubtedly it is possible for the Fenians in that country to occasion serious trouble. Whether this Province, New Brunswick, or Nova Scotia, or the little island of Prince Edward, be the object of attack—whether a series of feints be contemplated at any or all these places, with a view to a strong attack upon the weakest of them—matters not for my present purpose. The possibility of the thing is all that I am attempting to indicate, and I think that as prudent men we are bound to recognize it. [Hear, hear.] The manner in which our government has recognized it seems to me to merit the hearty approval of every Canadian. And the manner in which the efforts of the government have been sustained by the people of Canada, should be remembered by us all with patriotic pride. (Loud cheers.) Had there been neglect or procrastination in high places, or any lack of promptitude and spirit on the part of the people, the worst apprehensions might have been realized. But there has been neither. The government has discharged its duty readily, boldly, effectively; and the people have thus far discharged theirs with an enthusiasm which has left nothing to be desired. (Applause.) I am a peace man, so long as peace is compatible with honor. I would do all that could honorably be done to avert by negociation the horrors of regular warfare. I will go further, and say that in my judgment a war between Great Britain and the United States would be a scandal to the civilization of both, seeing how close and diversified are the ties which should make them friends. (Cheers.) But in relation to the threatened Fenian invasion, these considerations have no place. As against filibusters, marauders, murderers, thieves, incendiaries—and I trust I do not outrage your sensibilities by applying these terms to the ruffians who accept Sweeney as their General—(cheers)—as against these, I say, I am averse to all peace. I would deal with them as one of yourselves would deal with a wolf invading your homestead, and ravaging and destroying all around. (Loud cheers.) I would shoot them down, if at large, hang them, if caught; so that by some short sharp and decisive process the laws of God and man should be upheld, and the enemies of both taught a lesson of which they seem to stand in urgent need. (Cheers.) Perhaps we may confidently assume that this lesson has already to some extent been taught. The universal enthusiasm with which the appeal of the Government was responded to—the determination manifested by all classes to sustain the flag of our country at all hazards—the unfaltering resolve of every man to fight as becomes a man in defence of his family and home, his country and his Queen—has unquestionably not been without its effect upon the counsels of our enemies. (Cheers.) They have learned, at any rate, that to make Canada a base of operations, they must begin by conquering it; and I am mistaken if they have not also learned that a people as prompt and fearless as the Canadian people have shown themselves to be in organization for resistance, are not likely to be conquered without more formidable preparations than we have hither. to heard of from the other side of the border. (Loud Cheers.) So far as we are concerned, I do not look upon what has happened as an unmitigated misfortune. Business has suffered, much disquiet has been occasioned, and an expenditure has been incurred to which we cannot pretend to be indifferent. On the other hand, a healthy patriotic spirit has been developed. An unfaltering, uncalculating loyalty has been brought into play. A love of country has been exhibited of which colonists have sometimes been supposed to be incapable. (Here, here.) The necessity of encouraging the volunteer system and building up and maintaining a well organized system of militia, has been placed beyond dispute. Lastly, the expediency of taking some bold step to consolidate British power in these Provinces by some plan of confederation, has been brought home to the mind of every thoughtful man. (Hear, hear.) And now, gentlemen, quitting the fruitful subject of Fenianism, let me dwell for a moment upon the point to which I have just incidently alluded—the point involving the future allegiance and government of these Provinces. It is satisfactory to know the prospect of confederation has brightened considerably within the last two weeks. The tidings from the sister provinces are more hopeful than at any former period. From Nova Scotia and New Brunswick we hear of changes in public opinion, and changes in the minds of legislatures, which appear to foreshadow the acceptance of some common ground of action in regard to the union of the Provinces. Probably what is known as the Quebec scheme may not be accepted as it stands, and for this, I for one, shall not grieve overmuch. [Mr. MacFarlane—"here, here."] I am not wedded to that scheme in all its details, or to any other scheme. So that the great end—the establishment of a British Provincial union—be attained, I shall be content. This is not a time for pet theories of any kind. As good subjects as patriotic men, we can afford each to surrender something in a cause which is fraught with so many benefits. I shall indeed be disappointed if when we next meet we have not the pleasure of exchanging congratulations upon the consummation of some plan designed and fitted gradually to build up on this continent a British American nationality, in which, without offence to our neighbours, we may cherish the institutions which have made Britain great, and retain the alliance that forms our pride and boast in peace, and I hope will long continue to be our help and shield in war. (Cheers.) In addition to the considerations favoring this course, which, spring from a sense of common danger and the impulses of a common ambition, the exigencies of our commercial and industrial situation suggest reasons that are entitled to careful attention The abrogation of the Reciprocity Treaty involves changes it were not prudent to ignore. All of us have shared the benefits arising out of the operation of the treaty. All of us have profited by the market which the treaty furnished for everything the former has or could have to sell. I was therefore most anxious by any fair means and by any reasonable concession, to secure renewal, if not of the treaty, at least of some arrangement by which the substantial features of the treaty should be prolonged. I have been and am in favour of doing all that could justly be expected to meet the peculiar circumstances in which our neighbours are placed. But there must be limits to concession. There are boundaries in negotiation which we cannot overstep without jeopardizing the interests we would uphold, and sacrificing the self respect which, to a country as to an individual, is beyond all price. And I am sure you concur with me in the opinion that we could not accept the terms proposed by Mr. Morrill and his compatriots without loss and humiliation. (Applause.) The administration in power at Washington I believe, is not unwilling to come to a fair arrangement; but the majority in Congress, actuated in the first place by hostility to England, and in the next place by a bigoted adherence to ultra protectionest views, obstinately refuse to listen to reason. (Hear, hear.) For the present they will not hear of any terms which we can offer. How long this obstinacy will last remains to be seen. My information from Washington is, that the Secretary of the Treasury and friends of reciprocity rely upon experience to bring the Congressional majority to their senses; and that, notwithstanding the failure of recent efforts, a hope is entertained that something will yet be done to restore the trade to the healthy and friendly condition in which it stood up to the 17th of March. (Cheers.) Let us do nothing to hinder such a result. Let us not by precipitate and unfriendly action raise obstacles to a new arrangement, or weaken the hands of those who are trying to bring it into existence. At the same time, let us resolve if need be, to take care of ourselves without reference to the caprices of our neighbors—to pursue the even tenor of our way irrespective of their necessities or their legislation—and to turn to profitable account the vast natural advantages with which this Province is blessed. (Hear, hear.) For a period of course, we shall feel the embarrassments inseparable from a disturbance of our trade relations with the United States. Our markets may for a season be less lively, and our prices less remunerative than they have been. But by proper effort, we may speedily obtain access to other channels of trade; the products which the Americans have bought from us and afterwards have exported, we may ourselves export without their intervention; and in the end I believe that we shall find ourselves more prosperous than ever. (Hear, hear.) The union of the Provinces will be followed by an assimilation of Provincial tariffs, and free access to the markets of the maritime provinces which will thenceforward rank a long our best customers. There is a prospect, too, of favourable commercial arrangement with the West Indies, as a consequence of the labors of the commission of which our able Provincial Secretary has been the head; and if this expectation be fulfilled, we may calculate, not only upon a great market for our flour and lumber, but also upon the development of a direct trade which will add immensely to the wealth and commercial importance of these provinces While, then, I regret the termination of the reciprocity treaty, admit the inconvenience we shall temporarily suffer, and would continue by all honorable means to strive for a renewal of some commercial arrangement with the United States, I would deprecate everything like despondency, and especially would I deprecate everything like unfriendly legislation. (Hear, hear.) Whether the people of the United States continue good customers or not, they must inevitably continue our neighbors; and I would cultivate only a neighborly temper. Leave them, if they choose, to build a Chinese wall along their frontier, and enforce a tariff worthy of Japan. By so doing, they will inflict infinitely more injury upon themselves—than upon Canada. (Hear, hear.) Whatever be their course in this regard, our duty and our interests admit of no mistake. Already our people are better off than they: the debt which oppresses them is felt not by us; the taxation from which they suffer is felt not here. There was a time when we might have looked upon their lot a certain degree of envy, but that time is past, and past forever. Rejoicing as I do in the restoration of their Union, I see nothing good in their country which we have not in ours, while I see burdens upon their shoulders from which we are happily free. We will not quarrel with them, then, albeit they enforce the Japanese policy of commercial non-intercourse. Rather let us do all that is possible to heighten the contrast between this country and theirs. Theirs is now the dearest country in the world to live in; let us make Canada the cheapest. Their taxation is more onerous and vexatious than any to be found elsewhere; let us, on the contrary, reduce our customs duties and so lighten taxation, and by any other available means, do what we can to render Canada attractive as a home for industrious, enterprising and thrifty people. Contended with our lot, and confiding happily in our destiny, let us go forward, doing always the duty that is nearest to us, and ready amidst all the clamor of partizanship to heed the promptings of a wise and courageous patriotism. (The hon. gentlemen resumed his seat amidst loud and prolonged applause.)

THE WEAK POINT!

Whilst we Canadians think that Fenianism has its weak points, Gen. Sweeney, the "one-armed hero," thinks that there is in the Colonial possessions of Great Britain a *weak point* somewhere, and the avowed purpose of his collecting tours is to raise money to procure the means for pouncing upon such spot. Some philosopher has stated that "it's a queer country where nobody lives." General Sweeney has "a eagle i" on just such a part of British soil, which it is his intention to erect into an incipient Irish Republic, and then destroy the power of England by sea and land as soon as possible. Since the uprising in Canada, we have heard very little of Sweeney or his plans. Some people, in fact, seemed to think that the former had skedaddled with the moneybags, and that the latter had got very much out of joint; but lo! and behold! the hero turns up at last. On Tuesday evening last, a large crowd collected at St. James' Hall, Buffalo, to listen to addresses upon Fenianism. Of course, Sweeney was the "Big Injun" of the pow wow. "He told them that they had not come there to cheer, talk, &c., and then go home and forget Ireland. They had talked too much already, and must now go to work and carry out the boasts they had made, or they would become the laughing stock of the world." Talking too much, is a bad habit, as many a boasting braggart could testify, and Sweeney, now that he has doodled his dupes out of large sums of money, finds himself in the dilemma of having promised far more than he knows exactly how to accomplish.

"England, he said would like very well for the Brotherhood to go across the Atlantic ocean to fight her, but they (the Brotherhood) did not intend to do anything of the kind. He had been twenty years in the service of the United States, and ought to know something about military affairs. The first rule of military science was not to fight the enemy on its own ground; 2d, to attack him at his weakest point; and 3d, to fight on ground of their own choosing, and that furthest from his base of supplies."

That is to say, he does not believe in the "On to Richmond" theory, in this case. Some time ago, gushing orators thought it quite possible to land 200,000 men in Ireland, and beard the old lion in his very den, but Sweeney betrays a glimmer of common sense in that he admits the hopelessness of a force which sneaks about looking for a weak point.—The great leaders of modern times have frequently struck at the very vitals of an enemy's power, and the success they have met with proves that they understood pretty clearly what they were about.—Then again the Gen. forgets to say where *his* supplies are to come from, after he has got a footing far enough from his enemy's base. He expects, of course, to get his powder and grub from the United States, always providing that he is able to pay for them.

"He assured his friends across the border that they need not be afraid that the object of the Brotherhood was not retaliation for the St. Albans' raid, but to get a foothold on British soil, which, once obtained, would enable them to carry on a war, if necessary, for many years to come. As long as England was mistress of the seas, Ireland was in a bag. It was only by obtaining a territory from which to operate that the Brotherhood could release Ireland. They must fit out privateers in large numbers to prey upon the commerce of England, which would oblige that power to take her vessels now guarding Ireland to attend to these privateers, and that would be the time when an army could proceed to Ireland. *It was not his intention to injure a single man in Canada, if they did not endeavor to protect the British flag, and if they did this, they would have to take what followed.* He defended himself against the charge of being the leader of a marauding party. He said he would not command an army that would plunder—an army that would plunder was a band of robbers. The army that would be following him would be fighting for the object Washington and other great men fought and bled for, and would not think of plunder. In conclusion he said he deeply regretted the necessity that compelled him to speak in public, as he was always expected to speak of military affairs, and they well knew the least said about them the better."

If Ireland is to remain in the bag until England ceases to be mistress of the seas, she will be bagged for a long time, and the General's proviso of "many years to come" is absolutely necessary, under the circumstances. The portion of the above extract *italicized* conveys a morsel of comfort to the Canadians. If we let the Fenians alone when they visit us, *they* will let us alone! A very comfortable arrangement for the Brotherhood, but unfortunately Canadians have a knack of flying into a passion and shooting (to say nothing of hanging) their invaders. General Sweeney is a very nice man, no doubt, but he will certainly never find his *weak point* in the Canadian character.—That may as well be understood at the outset.

COURT OF CHANCERY.

The following cases were disposed of by His Lordship Vice Chancellor Mowat, at the Sittings held here last week.

Rowe *vs* Lancashire Insurance Company. Bill filed to compel defendants to issue policy of Insurance to plaintiffs upon premises mentioned in interim receipt, argued and stands for judgment. Blake Q. C., and Macara for plaintiffs, Roaf Q. C., for defendants.

Holland *vs* Moore—Bill for specific performance of Bond for conveyance of land, alledging that defendant Watson took his Mortgage subject to plaintiffs rights, argued and standsfor judgment. Toms for plaintiff, Blake Q. C., and Macdonald for defendant Watson.

McGregor *vs* Boulton—Bill to set aside conveyance of lands in Bayfield, and to have defendant declared a trustee for plffs at the close of the argument plaintiffs counsel asked leave to amend the Bill alledging that the conveyance was an improvident one and was obtained by the deft by undue influence and when the plff was intoxicated—stands for judgment. Toms for plff, Blake Q. C. for def.

Gordon *vs* Young—Bill filed by plff as assignee in Insolvency of VanEvery & Rumball to set aside a transfer of the schooners Lilly Dancy and Tecumseth, given by the insolvents to the defts Law, Young & Co., as a security for a pre existent debt. The Bill alleging that the transfer was given in view of insolvency and with the intent of giving the defts an unjust preference. Argued and stands for judgment. Toms for plff, Blake Q. C., for Young, Law & Co., Macdermott for insolvents.

McArthur *vs* Gordon—Bill for specific performance of agreement for transfer of land in Culross, given by defendant to plaintiff when land unpatented, defendant having since obtained the patent and denying the plaintiff's right to a conveyance. Decree for plaintiff. An account to be taken of what is due to defendant on bond, with interest; and on account of what defendant has paid the government, with interest, and the interest to be calculated six months after date of the master's report. From the amount found, deduct plaintiff's costs up to and including decree. On payment of the balance defendant to convey to plaintiff free and clear of all encumbrances. On default, plaintiff to be foreclosed of his rights.—Accounts to be taken before the master at Goderich. Usual references. Toms for plaintiff, Macara for defendant.

Petrie *vs* Baxter—Bill for sale of lands in Hullett, mortgaged by defendant's father to the plaintiff. Decree for sale with costs. Usual reference to master at Goderich. Toms for plaintiff, Macdermott for infant defendants.

Wilson *vs* Wilson—Bill for specific performance of agreement for transfer of land in Turnberry. The bond was given before the land was patented, and the defendant contended that the plaintiff was to pay the amount to the Crown. Decree—Reference to the master at Goderich to enquire what is due on the bond of defendant (unless defendant elects to accept $123 with interest on that sum from 9th Oct., 1866, without a reference.) In case of defendant electing to take a reference and of his proving more than that to be due he is to have the costs of the reference to be taxed and added to the amount due; and in case of its appearing on the reference that no more than $123 with interest thereon from 9th February, 1866, is due the defendant Wilson is to be changed with the costs of the reference, to be deducted. The amount payable to be paid within one month from the date of the report—the usual and general directions to be inserted. The plaintiff is to pay Gordon's costs up to, and including hearing. Gordon still remaining a party to the cause.

It was the longest sitting that has ever occurred in Goderich, and, had it not been for the indefatigable and close and kind attention to the very heavy work before him on the part of the Vice Chancellor, the counsel and litigants and witnesses would have been hard set to get home on Saturday. His Honor left for Sarnia by the Monday morning train.

Several Counsel who were expected to be engaged in the causes, and some of the cases are of great importance, were absent at the "frontier" on military duty, and could not attend.

We abstain from any comments on the cases "reserved" until His Honor delivers his judgments.

Presentation to F. W. Thomas Esq.

Never, perhaps, was promotion better merited, than in the case of Mr. Thomas, late Manager of the Bank of Montreal in this town, who is to be entrusted with the much more important and responsible management of the London branch of the same institution. While his policy during the past four years may have given umbrage to individuals, it was eminently qualified to benefit his employers, and in the main, the difficulty of obtaining money at will, has undoubtly tended to render many of our business men more self-dependant. In view of these facts and as a token of esteem, in a social point of view, a number of Mr. Thomas' friends visited his rooms at the Huron Hotel on Friday afternoon last and presented him with an elegant *Epergne*, the cost of which was $175.00. The articles composing the set are of silver, beautiful in design, and will prove as useful as beautiful. We may mention that it came from the well-known establishment of J. G. Joseph & Co., of Toronto, and bore the following inscription:—"Presented to F. Wolferstan Thomas Esq., as a token of esteem and regard, by his friends in Huron, 1866." At the hour appointed for the presentation, the Rev. E. L. Elwood arose and read the following

ADDRESS.

Goderich, 5th April, 1866

Dear Sir,—It is with much gratification that we are assembled here on this occasion to give expression to the affectionate sentiments entertained towards you by us in common, with many of the inhabitants of Goderich, and its neighborhood. And also to bear our testimony to your well merited promotion as manager to the London Branch of the Montreal Bank. The activity, energy and talent which characterized your useful career upwards of four years amongst us, has won for you our esteem and respect. In your hands authority was not exercised merely in working out the interests of Bank, but also in your private capacity your exertions were always strenuously brought to bear towards the improvement and well being of the town. At this moment when the tie which has connected us together is about to be severed it is not our intention to offer you the worthless tribute of flattery, by overstating either your labors or their results. It is the simple, sober, and candid expression of our mingled congratulations and regrets which we desire to convey on an event which while we rejoice to think is gain to you we cannot but feel, must be a loss to us. Bearing in mind then the great usefulness of your sojourn here in various respects, we view with regret the arrangement which deprives us of your valuable assistance and co-operation, even while we rejoice that the just discrimination of the of the Bank authorities has selected you for well merited advancement. We beg your acceptance of the accompanying present, and we indulge the hope, that you will kindly look upon it not with reference to its intrinsic worth, but as a memorial of our regard.

With best wishes for yourself, Mrs Thomas and family, we subscribe ourselves,

Your sincere friends,

E. L. Elwood, Rector
for the subscribers.

REPLY.

To the Rev. E. L. Elwood & others.

Dear Sir and Gentlemen,—In leaving your town after a residence of four years I have been sanguine enough to believe that I should bear with me the good will of many of its inhabitants, more especially of those with whom I have been most intimately associated either by business or private relations, but until within the past few days I was quite unprepared for this public testimony of your esteem and kind favour and I can assure you that the approbation you have so liberally accorded me will ever be borne in grateful recollection and will, I trust, stimulate me to new exertions in that larger sphere of business on which I am so shortly to enter.

The difficulties I had to contend with during the first three years of my tenure of office were of no trifling character, and when I recall to your memory the series of bad crops which befell us in those years, coupled with the entire revolution of the Bank's mode of making advances, I think you will acknowledge the serious nature of the obstacles which beset me; any success that has befallen me I attribute nearly entirely to yourselves, to your sound commercial stability, to your integrity and generous forbearance in recognising the ills which surrounded both you and me and assisting me to surmount them. I am thankful to take my leave of you at this season of unprecedented prosperity. The last year has worked marvels throughout the length and breadth of the land, the farmer has realized extreme prices for all the products of his farm and in his prosperity the professional man, the merchant, the mechanic and indeed all of us have fully shared. It is true that the termination of the reciprocity treaty may injuriously affect us for a while, yet not, I think, to the extent that a large majority believe, for our neighbours will still have to purchase from us many of our products, amongst others, our white wheat, our barley, wools and lumber, and they too will have to suffer the loss on their self imposed duties. Again, the wise prescience of our Government in sending its Commissioners to the Maritime Provinces, the West Indies and South America to seek out new avenues for the disposal of our surplus produce will doubtless be productive of the happiest results, and lastly when we view our late immense accession of wealth, could a happier time have been found for us to suffer any loss the close of the Treaty may bring about.

You have been pleased to allude to the personal interest I have exhibited in the welfare of the town and its inhabitants. I would only say that when I have been able to supplement any public object in progress by my labors or otherwise, the pleasure I have experienced in doing so has been a full and sufficient reward. For your very handsome present accept my sincerest thanks and believe me I shall ever connect with it the remembrance of your kindness and many of the happiest days I have known. I thank you gentlemen, for the expression of your good wishes for my wife and family. I have one favour to solicit at your hands. Pray extend to my successor the same uniform forbearance and good will that you have ever evinced towards me. I shall hope to see you from time to time in London or here, and I need scarcely avouch how glad I shall be to meet you, to enjoy a hearty and friendly shake of the hands and a long talk over old times. I pray, gentlemen, that all happiness, both temporal and eternal may be yours.

And beg to subscribe myself most faithfully yours,

F. WOLFERSTAN THOMAS.

Goderich April 6th 1866.

At the conclusion, the gentlemen present sat down to a first-rate dinner, provided in the style for which the Huron is so justly celebrated. Our space will not admit of the publication of the post-prandial speeches.

Complimentary Dinner to Dr. Woods.

On Wednesday evening (4th), a large company assembled at Mr. Pollock's Inn, at Bayfield, at a dinner in honor fo Dr. Woods It was a compliment long deserved and though not given so soon as should have been done, it was well done when done. Notwithstanding some courts sitting at London and Goderich at the time, and the absence of many friends "at the front," some sixty of the bone and sinew of the county sat down to an excellent repast. W. W. Connor, Esq., in the chair. On the right of the guest of the evening, we observed Alex Johnston, Esq, late Reeve, who by the way, in the course of the evening gave some of his spirited military and patriotic speeches. On the left were Mr. Ritche and Judge Cooper. The former (notwithstanding a bad cold) was drawn out into a speech in which he paid well merited compliments to Dr. Woods, and to his successor in the County Clerkship, Mr. Adamson, who occupied the Vice chair. There was some excellent singing, and the Bayfield Band discoursed sweet music to the infinite delight of the company. A more pleasant and cordial meeting we have seldom seen. All seemed highly satisfied, each with the other, and they separated in good time mutually gratified. The Judge spoke warmly in praise of the Volunteers, and with some feeling as to the bench and in eulogy of the magistrates, many of whom were present at the table.

The following were the toasts from the chair.

The Queen, The band, "God save the Queen."

The Prince and Princess of Wales, Band Rule Brittania.

The Army and Navy of Great Britain, and the Canadian Volunteers, Band Red, White and Blue, Lieutenant Johnston and Judge Cooper responded.

The Governor General, Band British Grenadiers.

The guest of the Evening. After the band ceased, the cheering was immense, and we cannot report or in print imitate the speech, it was inimitable.

From the Vice Chair there were the following usual toasts, The "Commercial and Agricultural Interests", The Bench and the Bar", "Our friends from a distance", "The Press" and the ladies.

☞ American drovers are swarming over this section, picking up everything in the shape of horned cattle at high figures. Beef and butter are expected to be very high this summer, in consequence.

Another Fire.— On Sunday morning last, about 1 o'clock, a fire broke out in a large three story frame building, owned by Messrs. J. & J. Saegmiller, and used as a slaughter house, store room, currier's shop, &c. in connection with their tannery. Although the firemen were out promptly, as usual, nothing could be done beyond preventing the spread of the flames to the adjoining buildings. The structure with most of its contents was completely destroyed The proprietors' loss will be partially covered by the insurance.

Huron Teachers Association:—The fourth regular meeting of this Association will be held in the Central School Goderich, on Saturday the 28th inst, at 1 o'clock p. m. the subject of discussion being. "What is the best curriculum, or course of study, for our Common Schools." The subject is a very important one, and we hope to see a full attendance of teachers.

Personal.—While home for a day or two last week, on furlough, Capt. Ross received a telegram stating that he had been raised to the position of Major. If untiring zeal, great aptitude for military command, and very marked efficiency in all that he undertakes, are the proper qualifications, Major Ross will certainly be an ornament to his rank and a credit to Goderich.

Spring.—The snow has entirely disappeared in this region, spring birds have arrived, and flocks of wild ducks, pigeons, &c., passing to the North, betoken the speedy advent of warm weather.

☞ A conductor on the G. W. R'y., named McKay, was killed on the th inst. by the collision of two trains.

"The Land of Liberty."—The Philadelphia horse car companies compel colored people to ride in particular cars set apart for their use, and the local courts sustain the conductors who put them off the cars which white people ride in. A case which has just occurred is to be carried up to the Supreme Court of appeal.

☞ We have a rumor that Jeff Davis is to be released on parole.

Cholera.—This dread disease is coming West. The emigrant ship *England* arrived at Halifax on Tuesday 3rd inst. There were 160 cases of cholera on board and 50 deaths. The affair has created considerable alarm.

☞ A communication from Bayfield and other correspondence will appear in our next.

☞ The notorious Michael Murphy and five associates were arrested at Cornwall on Monday, while *en route* for Portland, as is supposed to join some Fenian expedition. The party had arms and ammunination with them. Mike will probably have a "tough" time of it.

☞ The latest from the Fenians is that 350 of them had started on a warlike expedition against New Brunswick.

THE FRONT.

Private Billets.

Sarnia, 8th April, 1866,

From our Special correspondent.

My Dear "Signal".—Quite a number of changes have taken place here during the past week. On Tuesday last the company of Queen's Own of Toronto, who have been stationed here during the last five months, left for their homes, and on Wednesday the Woodstock Company, also here a similar length of time proceeded to their homes. As some intimacy had grown up between the latter company and the Goderich men, quite a number of the Artillery and Rifles went up to their barracks previous to their leaving, to bid them farewell and have also the pleasure of marching with them down to the Railway Station. On the Goderich men presenting themselves, they were received with three rousing cheers. As a Company they were glad to return home to their friends and families, but they could not help expressing regret at parting with so jolly a lot of fellows, and should they ever have to come back to the front again they trusted they might enjoy the society of just such comrades. Two companies more arrived to take the place of those relieved, the Owen Sound Infantry and the Meaford Rifles. The first mentioned one an exceedingly fine body of men and no doubt, will, after some experience in battalion drill, become one of the crack companies here.—The Rifles from Meaford occupy the barracks vacated by the Woodstock Company and the Delaware Company have taken possession of Hall's barracks, formerly occupied by the "Queen's Own."

As neither of the Goderich companies were put into barracks during these changes, it would seem to intimate that our stay here will not be of long duration. So far as the men themselves are concerned, they would not object to remain till the first of May, but by that time they would, almost to a man, prefer to return as navigation will then of course be well open, and their various branches of business and gardening operations will indeed suffer much, should they have to stay longer.

As regards the possible danger of a Fenian invasion, it would appear that Goderich is as much and even more in danger than Sarnia, should they attempt to carry out their threatened programme. Isolated as the harbor is, it would be comparatively easy work for vessels, either armed or otherwise, to enter both by day or night, with a few hundred men to plunder and destroy, before sufficient assistance could be called together to repel them. Here the case is far different, as only a river divides us from a people who, although Americans, have in many instances shown feelings of the warmest friendship, and what with intermarriage and commercial relations, are likely to continue so. As a pleasing illustration of their sentiments, I will relate an incident which has just transpired between the two people. Some time last fall a large fire broke out in the main business street of Sarnia, which destroyed Belchamber's Hotel and other buildings. Being observed by the Port Huron people, they immediately came across with their engines and firemen and worked most valuantly to prevent the spreading of the flames, and solely through their efforts much valuable property was saved from destruction. After the excitement had somewhat subsided, a subscription of $200 was made up by the insurance agents and others, whose property had been in danger, and a committee appointed to go across the river and present it to the Port Huron Firemen, but the noble answer of the men was, "No, we will not take your money, we did not come across to work for pay, but simply as neighbors to assist you in a time of trouble." Ultimately it was discovered that one of their men was seriously injured while playing the part of the good Samaritan, an injury too that will cause him suffering perhaps for the remainder of his life. This man I am informed was during the past week induced to receive the money. Now any one would naturally suppose and justly too, that these same men would just as soon give the alarm, should bands of lawless men attempt to disturb our peaceful shores.

Some important changes are about to take place with regard to the command of the battalion. Col. Jarvis and Lieut. Campbell are going to Windsor, Major Richardson of Woodstock, now in command at Point Edward, is to receive the rank of Lieut Col. and succeeds Col. Jarvis here, while Major Graham of the Deleware Co. will succeed Major Richardson at the Point. Capt. Ross too, of the Artillery Co., is I hear, to be appointed to the rank of Major. When it became known by the men on Saturday that our Col. was going to leave us, quite a desponding feeling prevailed, for by his sterling qualities as a soldier and his bearing as a gentleman, he has endeared himself to the whole battalion.

To-morrow—Monday, we commence to drill for the season at half past six in the morning, then again at half past ten and half past two. With the exception of Sergt. Ben, of "double" notority, who is noted for his early rising, I know of no one who will relish this change these cold mornings. Navigation has been open several days and the steamboat Reindeer is making her usual trips to and from Detroit. Several days last week, immense flocks of wild pigeons passed over in this vicinity, betoking, I trust, an early commencement of agricultural affairs. The weather is now delightful and the men from Goderich are all in excellent health.

"PHILO JUNIUS."

The Best Method of Ploughing.

To the Editor of the Huron Signal.

Sir:— As the season for ploughing, one of the most important of farm operations, is now at hand, permit me to say that I am convinced the principle hereto fore encouraged at our ploughing matches is not adapted to our hot, dry climate, particularly on dry farms. The principle may answer better for a cold, wet climate, where, I believe, it originated, and may please the eye of some, but it is a loss when the pocket is consulted. In fact, it is a hobby-horse which, I trust, will soon be ridden to death. The principle I would recommend for spring crop, on good level sod land, is to plough not less than six inches depth, with *level sole, turned over as much as possible*, with sod down—roll across the ploughing with a heavy roller, then cultivate not less than three inches deep, so as to prepare the land well for crop.

On fancy ploughing you cannot cultivate or prepare so well. By the process I recommend the land will keep cleaner, the sod rot better (thus enriching the soil), and retain moisture to a greater extent, which is much wanted in this climate, and produce *better crops* than what is called fancy ploughing.

A FARMER.

☞ Bristol Bill, was tried at the Waterloo Assizes and found guilty. No bill was found against Mack.

DISCUSSION.

A discussion will take place at Exeter on Friday the 13th inst., between an equal number of Speakers from Brucefield and Exeter Debating Societies. Discussion will be held in the School House commencing at 7 o'clock, P. M. Time allowed to each speaker 30 minutes. Subject—Was the beheading of Chas. 1st justifiable. Principal members, R. Ferguson, J. Ferguson and G. Baird; Exeter members, P. McDonald, Wm. McDonald and C. Hamilton.

Brucefield, April 2nd, 1866.

Confederation in New Brunswick.

We have important intelligence from New Brunswick via New York. This afternoon's telegram says that the steamer Britannia, from Glasgow, arrived to-day; also the ironclad Miantonamah from Fortress Monroe.

A despatch states that the Upper House of Provincial Parliament of New Brunswick, yesterday adopted resolutions urging Confederation according to the Quebec scheme, which, together with an address asking that the question of Union of the British North American Provinces be submitted for the action of the Imperial Parliament, was forwarded to the Home Government.

English and Irish Landlords. — The Times in noticing the late action for ejectment brought by Lord Mayo against an old gentlewoman on his estate, thus sums up the difference between English and Irish landlords:—"In the course of the debate on the suspension of the Habeas Corpus Act, Mr. Roebuck defied any one to explain why it is that an Irish landed proprietor should be placed upon a different footing from one of the same class in this country, and it must be confessed that very few Englishmen are competent to accept this challenge. Without pretending, however, to reduce the claim of 'tenant right' to a few simple propositions or adopting the doctrines of its advocates, we can easily show in what the actual position of an Irish landlord differs from that of an English landlord, and upon what *prima facie* grounds, therefore, it is sought to establish a distinction between their legal rights against their tenants. In the first place, an English landlord generally resides on his property, whereas an Irish landlord is generally non-resident, and often an habitual absentee.—This represents far more than a loss of expenditure and a diversion of Irish rents to the pockets of English and Continental tradespeople; it represents the absence of that kindly superintendance and neighbourly intercourse which helps to remove many a source of discord. In the second place, it is the custom in England for the landlord to make improvements, while in Ireland, where improvements are to be made at all, they are made by the tenant. We do not stop to enquire whence the difference of custom arises; it is enough that it exists, and reverses all notions of reciprocal duty between the two parties. In the third place, almost all leases and agreements relating to land are in England committed to writing; In Ireland verbal contracts, like that set up by Miss Bently, are the rule, and written contracts the exception. In the fourth place, the demand for good tenants in England is quite as active as the demand for good farms; instead of which, in Ireland, where manufactures are few and languid, the competition for land is such as to place farmers at the mercy of landowners. Perhaps this difference really accounts for the rest. At all events, anyone who will take the trouble to conceive the effect of these four conditions—apart from history and from other history and from other elements which may occur to those familiar with the land tenure of Ireland—will cease to wonder why a legal statute should have been claimed for the Irish tenant different from that which prevails in this country. The claim may be right, or it may be wrong; it certainly is wrong in the form it so often assumes; but it is not ground less; it is not absurd.

Killed his Own Hens.—Old Colonel Higgens owned a flock of hens, which he was very careful to keep shut up during the planting season, and his wife would let them out occasionally to enjoy themselves in the garden. The Colonel, seeing them in the garden one day, supposed, of course, they belonged to his neighbor; and greatly enraged at the destruction of his property, he seized his old musket and blazed away at them, and sent a lad with the dead chickens to his neighbor's house, with a message more forcible than polite. The next day, the operation was repeated, and so on for several days, and the Colonel was greately astonished at his neighbor's silence and good nature, as he never sent any more than very polite thanks for the "gift," as he expressed it. Well, so it happened that the Colonel went to look after his own hens one day, and found very few in the pen After looking and wondering, for a while, the reason of his neighbor's good nature dawned upon him, as he was heard to exclaim:—"I have killed my own hens and that old rascal has eaten them all!" The old fellow never heard the last of those hens, and was never known to shoot another.

Trial of Jeff. Davis.—Reliable information has been received at Washington from Richmond, to the effect that a movement is on foot to obtain a writ of *heabeas corpus* for the release of Jefferson Davis. The writ in question may issue either from the United States District Court, Judge Underwood presiding, or from a State Court. The civil trial of Davis will now be strongly urged. He can be held in this district under the indictments pending against him in the Supreme Court of the district.

☞ Sir Walter Scott has related an interesting incident connected with the threatened invasion of England by the first Napoleon, in the early part of this century. In a Scotch seaport near the Border, a ship master informed the authorities that he was chased by a French fleet, which was sailing for the harbor, and which might be immediately expected to make its appearance there. Being night, the signal beacons were fired, and in a few hours the yeomanry, the farmers, and every man in the district fit to carry arms, young and old, were in the town ready to fight the enemy, should he attempt to land. The report turned out to be unfounded, for the supposed French fleet turned out to be English. The event, however, was not without its use, as the zeal and courage evin