BOOKS
AND
STATIONERY.
THE
Oldest, Largest & Cheapest
BOOK STORE
WEST OF TORONTO,
is Moorhouse's.
EVERYTHING YOU REQUIRE
—IN—
SCHOOL BOOKS
OR
WRITING PAPERS,
is offered at
LOWEST PRICES.
Everyone who purchases from me can rely on getting the best value for their money in the Dominion.
T. J. MOORHOUSE.
Goderich, July 24th, 1877.

Huron Signal.

GODERICH, AUG. 15, 1877.

The Fagging System.

Every reader of Dickens recollects with a shudder the brutality enacted in that Educational Institution, euphoniously styled Dotheboys Hall, and while grieving at the human misery depicted in the sketches of its inmates and the fact that the picture was not more than the reality, were pleased to think that a healthy reform had swept away almost every trace of such iniquities in a civilized country. Some vestige of the elements of Dotheboys Hall still remains, under the system known in large schools as "fagging"—that is compelling younger scholars to wait upon and be subject to their seniors. A case has come to light in London, Eng., through the death by suicide of a young scholar. He was twelve years old and a pupil of Christ's Hospital school, London. He had run away from school on account of the persecution of the monitors (large boys)—had been brought back and flogged; had run away again and been brought back and was in solitary confinement at night waiting for another flogging in the morning. When they went to flog him he was beyond the reach of their torture, hanging by a cord attached to the ventilator of his prison. He left no last words, except those previously uttered in explanation of his conduct in the first running away—that he could not stand the cruelty of the school—the "Christ's Hospital school." William Arthur Gibbs was a Christ's Hospital boy—only twelve years old, who committed suicide rather than endure longer the persecution of the school and the torture of the discipline. There is no manner of doubt about that. There was a coroner's inquest. The jury found that the boy had hung himself in a fit of "temporary insanity." The jury did not look at his back. If they had they would have found the cause recorded there, but the verdict would have been the same—"temporary insanity." Poor little Gibbs. It is not stated whether he had father or mother, sister or brother, guardian or friend to whom he could make known the abuse inflicted upon him. But he was at Christ's Hospital school. That name sounds as if it ought to have afforded him protection in England. The suicide made a good deal of noise, and the verdict was sneered at by those who knew all about the discipline of Christ's Hospital school. A member of the house of commons in his seat called the attention of the home secretary to the suicide, the verdict and the alleged cause, and the case has not been closed with the rendering of the verdict and the hiding of the body of poor little Gibbs away in the grave. The head master of the school has sent in his statement that the boy was not cruelly treated. But the system of Christ's Hospital school has been exposed in the London Times by some old pupils of the institution. A clergyman named Day throws some light on it, and writes that the public would not be astonished at suicides in the school if they knew how the flogging was done. He then tells how it is done. The particulars are simply sickening. It takes two strong men to perform the execution—one to hold the boy and the other to flog. The clergyman states what he witnessed in the case of another boy when he was at school, as follows:

He was a small and delicate lad, by name Blount, and he slept in the bed next to me. A big boy had compelled Blount to go and bring him some lumps of sugar out of the monitor's sugar-basin. The big boy ate the sugar himself, and the small boy had none of it. The facts of the case became known to the monitor, who reported it to the steward, who flogged Blount as a thief and did not punish the big boy. That night poor little Blount could not sleep, and at last he begged me to help him. I accordingly took his shirt off, and found his back, from the shoulders down to the waist, one mass of lacerated flesh, the blood sticking to the shirt so as to cause agony in getting it off. I then, with my finger and thumb, pulled out of his back at least a dozen pieces of birch rod, which had penetrated deep into the flesh. That boy's back looked more like a piece of raw meat than anything else. I have since seen the back of a sailor after three dozen with a naval "cat," and I solemnly declare that the injury done to the sailor's back would not compair with that done to the blue-coat boy."

This mangling of a boy was done at Christ's Hospital school, and no doubt the same system is still in vogue. The clergyman states in conclusion: "My own opinion is that poor little Gibbs has been driven to death by bullying and flogging and the fear of more to come."

Another correspondent writes that the seven years which he passed in the school were years of misery and suffering and that no consideration would induce him to send his own sons there.

The home secretary will not want for historical facts, and living witnesses of the barbarity practised in Christ's Hospital school. The popular indignation seems to demand a thorough investigation which may lesson the rigors of discipline and prevent any more suicides. If it does, the sacrifice may be a means of redemption in beautiful harmony with the name of the school, and thousands of Christ's hospital boys to come may have reason to bless the memory of poor little Gibbs.

The Government is determined to oppose any amalgamation of or joint purse arrangement between the two Cable Companies.

The large foreign trade of California in fruit and wines becomes no mystery when it is known that the State has 3,800,000 fruit trees and 35,000,000 grapevines, and harvests from 300,000,000 to 500,000,000 pounds of fruit yearly. She produces a large surplus, and foreign trade follows as a matter of course.

Wingham Waterworks.

On the 17th inst. Wingham goes to the polls to declare by the voice of the tax payers whether or not the town is to be protected against fire, and otherwise benefitted by the building of waterworks. The estimated cost, after the Waterous system, for the town of Wingham is about $10,000 to $15,000, but ere the completion it would probably foot up $20,000. There appears to be general approval of the scheme and no doubt the by-law will carry by a large majority. A correspondent of the *Times* attempts by some very questionable statements to put a damper on the scheme, probably because he lives in the outskirts of the town and fills to see that any direct advantage would accrue to him personally. But we believe this is a solitary exception and that the good sense of Wingham will carry through the enterprise, which even in the item of insurance alone would save thousands of dollars to the business men and others. If the experience of Goderich were taken it would go to prove how sorry the ratepayers are that, instead of investing in Engines, tanks and the many accompanying expenses, we did not long ago adopt a system of waterworks. Here the question is becoming more serious every year and it is admitted on all hands that eventually we must adopt waterworks, although the expense will be large. In Wingham the fall in the river gives an advantage that will save a large amount in the construction of works, and in the end we feel certain that the ratepayers would find the construction of such works the cheapest, and certainly the best method by which they can effectually protect their property against fire, and generally benefit the town.

The School Board.

Our cotemporary lately suggested that all meetings of the School Trustees in future should be held in the Council Chamber. The idea is an excellent one and such a change would, we are certain, be appreciated by the public. At present the public shows no interest in the proceedings of this important board, seemingly for the reason that the meetings are generally understood to be of a private nature. Of course the Trustees would be glad to see parents taking a deeper interest in the matter by attending their monthly meetings, but then the accommodation is so limited in the present Board room that half a dozen outsiders would scarcely find sitting room. By all means let there be a change to the Council Chamber.

Referring to the strikes, a leading American exchange says. "When we come to analyze those elements which wrought the recent breaches of popular peace, we find the working-man less responsible than Liquor and the Liquor Traffic. True, the workers struck and would not work; true, they opened the door of opportunity, and the mob went through; but they did not rob and burn, and murder; the influence which made robbery and degratation possible came from the saloons, and not from the shops. In New York it was a saloon-keeper—Schwab—who did most to incite the communistic spirit; in Chicago it was another of like ilk; in Pittsburgh, if reports be true, the terrible violence only followed free use of liquor, free entry to the saloons, and the natural results of alcohol inside a mob. We may be mistaken, but in our opinion two-thirds of the losses occasioned throughout this country by rioters, may be charged to the saloons. Pittsburg, it is estimated, must pay forty dollars per capita of total population, in settlement of claims for property destroyed—a fearful price for private leges enjoyed under the Liquor system. In that city months ago a great temperance revival took place, but it did not strike at the root of the evil—it did not shut up the saloons. Men signed the pledge, and kept their appetites, and those places were allowed to remain open where appetite is daily tempted to overcome. Wherever practical prohibition was had, after the strike begun—as at Hornellsville, for instance—little loss occured. In such emergencies many men recognize the merit of prohibition, temporarily, we denounce it as a broad and beneficent principle. They are unreasonable, to be sure; for what will benefit the people for a day or a month, ought to benefit longer. If it be wise to shut up the saloons in time of riot, and if prohibition then be possible, it is wise to shut up the saloons altogether, and prohibition is a daily possibility."

War News.

The Russians are still preparing for a decisive blow to retrive the disaster at Plevna, and it is believed that Rasgrad will be the object of the next move. Their headquarters are now on the road from Bela to Rustchuk, where a concentration of troops is being made for an offensive movement on Shumla. The siege of Rustchuk has been entirely abandoned. In the south the capture of Kezanlik by Ruleiman Pasha is confirmed, and it is officially announced that Gen. Gourko has been driven back across the Balkans. There are now, it is asserted, no Russian troops whatever to the south of the mountain. Russian advices, however, claim that Gourko's position in the passes is secure, and that his communications with the main army are uninterrupted.

In Asia Russian reinforcements numbering fifteen thousand men have crossed the frontier, and are threatening the Ottoman right.

The German Emperor is on his way to Ischl, where a meeting with the Emperor William will urge the strictest neutrality on the part of both Austria and Germany.

The defeat of the Montenegrins under Despotovich is confirmed, and it is announced that the Bosnian insurrection has come to an end, the insurgents having taken refuge and been interned in Austrian territory.

Earl Beaconsfield in the House of Lords states that the British Government would remain neutral so long as British interests were not imperilled. He said he had no more reason to doubt the good faith of Russia.

The Turks are reported to have gained another success at Plevna.

The defeat suffered by the Russians at Plevna has altered all their plans and will lead to the abandonment of their tranBalkan positions. Only three months of the season in which fighting can be carried on remain, and it will be impossible to bring up sufficient reinforcements in that time to continue the advance. Their operations will probably be confined to Bulgaria.

The Russian troops are suffering severely from fevers and dysentery. Many of the officers are stricken down.

Large reinforcements are being sent from Russia to join the forces in Bulgaria.

Legal Notes.

Mrs. Ireland who has been for a long time an inmate of the Gaol was removed yesterday morning to the Berlin Poor House. The poor woman is very bad with St. Vitus, dance and unable to do anything to help herself.

The New York *Post* editorially gives the alleged secret history of the Erie Railroad strike, charging that seven men discussed the matter in a bar-room and resolved to decide it by casting a burning candle to the floor. If the flame went out they would strike, if not they would continue to work. The flame went out, and these seven then fomented the trouble.

"Women are coming to the front," says the Cincinnatti *Enquirer*. It's about time—they were pulled back long enough.

GENERAL.

The best grade of flour sells for $7 a barrel in Listowel.

At a meeting of lawyers in Halifax the Dominion Bar Society was formed.

The season for shooting wild ducks commences 15th inst, to day.

The first telegraph line, a private one, six miles in length, is now working in China.

A farmer on the 5th Concession of London township has had within a few days a cow calve two calves—a bull and a heifer.

The interest in the Murphy gospel temperance meetings is unabated. In Oshawa, over 600 have signed the pledge. A club has been organized.

Toronto authorities are trying to put a stop to Sunday excursions to the Island. The captains of three ferry steamers are before the Court at present for running their steamers on Sunday.

Evidence in the Oka case has now been gone through, and there can be little doubt that all the prisoners will be committed to stand their trial at the Court of Queen's bench for arson.

It was stated, at one of the recently held Temperance Camp Meetings, that one-fifth of the population of New Hampshire, and one third of the voters have signed the temperance pledge.

Since the commencement of their task, the English revisers of the Old Testament have held forty-five sessions, each of several days duration. They have gone as far as Joel, 1st chapter, 7th verse.

One of the jurymen who condemned the Tichborne claimant to imprisonment has publicly recanted. He has informed the Queen that he has changed his mind about the case, and now thinks that the prisoner should be released. The Tichborne leagues are jubilant.

The United States Government will name a Commission of three, to act in conjunction with a similar Commission named by Canada, to negotiate with Sitting Bull in regard to his return to the territory of the former.

The Lindsay *Post* says:—The scholar heading the list of those who passed the recent High School entrance examination held here is a young Icelander of about twenty years, whose example should stimulate pupils in more favored circumstances.

The large hotels at Niagara Falls will close a month earlier than usual this year owing to hard times, while the Point Farm Hotel near Goderich will be open longer than usual on account of the excessive influx of health and pleasure seekers.

Mr. J. B. Armstrong of Guelph has received an order from Australia for twelve buggies. Those sent for exhibition there have given every satisfaction, and realized good prices. An order for a large quantity of the celebrated single leaf springs has also been received by the Guelph Carriage Goods Co.

John McCulloch, on whose evidence Jack Sheehan was committed for murder while returning home last evening, accidentally shot himself in the leg. His companions procured help, and he was removed to the Hospital, when the excessive hemorrhage was checked and the bullet extracted. He lies in a weak state. His friends claim that he was obliged to carry the pistol in self-defence.

The number of dogs distroyed since the opening of the campaign of 1877, in Toronto, is stated by the City Commission as 600. The revenue derived from the animals redeemed is $195, and the expenditure in connection with the working of the scheme a little over $200, so that the pound has nearly paid expenses, while the city has been rid of a goodly portion of the vagrant curs infest the streets. It is believed that there are yet some 1,500 unlicensed dogs in the city. The pounding will be carried on all the year round.

The season is nearly at hand when the digging of potatoes and the pulling up of the pickaninny vines becomes a part of the duty of the farmer and gardener. At this time a word of caution regarding the labor should be heeded. The free use of Paris Green throughout the season to destroy potato bugs was necessary, and the plants to a great extent have been covered with it. Persons at work among the vines should be careful not to poison themselves in handling them. The greatest danger appears to be in getting the Paris green into a scratch or cut on the hand. This can easily be avoided by wearing gloves.

On Wednesday forenoon, a young lad about ten years of age, a son of Jas. Dowdie, who lives at the west end of Parkhill was crushed to death by being run over by a loaded hay waggon. The accident occurred near Mr. Bell's blacksmith shop. The little fellow had run out to pull out a handful of flax, and in doing so was swung around under the wheels, the hind one running completely over him, starting at his right shoulder and passing in a lateral direction across his lungs, opposite his thigh. He only lived about half an hour after being taken up. This should be a warning to other boys, but we have no hopes that it will be.

The feat of swimming across the Niagara River below the Falls has in it so many elements of danger that peculiar credit has always been accorded its accomplishment. Last week two boys—Willie Flynn and an adopted son of Mr. Sully swam from a point below the gas works across the river and back with apparent ease. At one time the boys were enveloped in the thick foam on the surface, and were completely lost sight of for a few moments. The successful accomplishment of the feat was loudly applauded by their numerous comrades, who witnessed the affair from the American shore.

A telephone can be made in a few minutes by anyone, by means of which conversation in an ordinary tone may be carried on between parties a hundred yards or more apart. Knock both ends out of two tin cans—oyster cans will do, paste letter paper tightly over one end of each can, through which insert the end of common wrapping twine, although a silk line would be better; tie a knot to prevent the string from slipping through; extend the string as far as you can without letting it touch the ground or any intervening object; place your mouth at the open end of the can, and a slight whisper will be heard at the upper end of the line, where a similar arrangement of the string through the can and paper must be made.

An instance of personating a voter, which has landed the perpetrator in a serious trouble, has occurred at the present voting on the Dunkin by-law, at Toronto. Between three and four o'clock on Wednesday last a young man named Harry West presented himself at the voters' place and gave the name of W. Sexton, lately occupying a tabacconist's store on Yonge-street. One of the scrutineers for the Dunkin party happened to know Sexton personally, and challenged the voter, desiring that the voter presenting himself should be sworn. To the surprise of the scrutineer the man took the oath and passed out. The circumstances of the case, and the strong suspicions of the scrutineer were laid before the Committee acting in the interests of the Dunkin party, and it was determined to have the matter cleared up. A warrant was issued on the information of Mr. Fullerton, of the firm of Macgregor, Hall & Fullerton, and West was arrested. He was brought before the Police Magistrate on Saturday morning and pleaded guilty, and was fully committed to stand his trial at the ensuing Assizes for perjury. The prisoner West pleaded as his only excuse that he must have been drunk at the time, but his appearance in Court did not bear out the idea that he had been incapable of thinking for himself. He also said that he had not been instigated by any person to do what he had done. As to the latter, it is very improbable that he would have acted such a part of himself, as he is not a Licensed Victualler even, being engaged in a baking establishment on Y[illegible] street; and if in the last [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]