

THE LEEDS GANG.

From the Brockville Recorder.

On Thursday morning of last week, the town was thrown into a state of great excitement, by a rumour that a portion of the "Leeds Gang" of plunderers had shot Mr. S. Halladay of Farmersville, and severely wounded another man, in an attempt to capture two of the gang for the crime of horse stealing.

The notoriety which this gang has earned for themselves by numerous high-handed acts of robbery and assault, rendered the rumoured murder of Mr. Halladay a very probable circumstance, but no one could tell exactly what had really taken place, and as the news went from mouth to mouth, each relater had a somewhat enlarged and more wonderful tale to tell. Meantime it was very generally believed that Mr. Halladay was either killed or wounded in such a manner as to preclude all hope of recovery. As it was known that our worthy Sheriff had been roused from his bed at a very early hour in the morning, and had departed for the scene of murder with a posse of constables, but had left no authentic information in relation to the attack, the public mind was obliged to feed on any wild story which the imagination of narrators was prepared to lay before the eager and curious crowds gathered at almost every corner during the whole forenoon, till something authentic could be obtained.

At last a connected story was heralded forth from the lips of one of the men who had formed one of the party, who had gone to arrest the thieves alluded to, and from this gentleman we received the outlines of the attack and escape of the rogues, after leaving Mr. Halladay on the snow for dead. His information is to the following effect:

Information was received on Wednesday by the Ontario Mutual Detective League at Farmersville, that proof of horse stealing had been found against Milton Wing and Thomas Chapman. Warrants to arrest these men were at once issued, and a party, consisting of Mr. Stephen Halladay, David F. Booth, Wm. Robinson, T. W. H. Leavitt, and Constable Fife, at once proceeded to Leeds to arrest the parties. On arriving there, Halladay was stationed at the front door, and Robinson at the back door, while Fife and Leavitt entered the house. The inmates at that time consisted of Carey Chase, George Chapman and Miss Chapman. As there has been a bench warrant out for some time against Chase, Fife informed him that he would have to arrest him, and Chase consented to go. At this instant Thomas Chapman entered the house, followed by Halladay. Fife then turned to Chapman and arrested him. Chapman instantly struck Fife, and Fife seized him by the coat collar, when a scuffle ensued, in which Halladay stepped forward to assist Fife. Chapman then drew a revolver, and as it was thought shot Halladay, while George Chapman struck Fife with a stick of wood. Miss Chapman, not to be outdone by her male companions, struck Leavitt, who had Chase covered with a revolver, with a stick of wood, and the shock discharged his revolver, which was pointed to Chase to guard him. The ball missed Chase who immediately sprang out of doors. Thomas Chapman then fired at Leavitt, missing him. Leavitt returned the shot, striking Chapman in the arm. Leavitt was again struck by Miss Chapman across the neck, and fell out of the door, Chapman jumping on him, while Miss Chapman endeavoured to beat his brains out with a billet of wood. Chapman then drew his revolver and fired at Leavitt, missing him again, but supposing that he had killed Leavitt, Chapman entered the house followed by Robinson. Robinson saw Halladay apparently dead upon the floor. Robinson then fired his pistol at the Chapmans, who had wounded Fife, cutting his head open in several places. The robbers then rushed at Robinson, who escaped by breaking down a door, leaving the house. Fife escaped by the back door, and succeeded in reaching the sleigh just as Robinson also came to it. They then both drove off, supposing Halladay and Leavitt dead. In the meantime Leavitt reached the road and hailed them, when they took him on board, and at once proceeded to Sweet's Corners for help. As no guns could be found there they pushed on to Lyndhurst, raised a party of men, and returned to the house, but could find no trace of Halladay. A little boy (son of Miss Chapman, it is said) informed the party that the boys dragged Halladay out of doors, and then hid themselves in the barn. After procuring a light, Halladay was tracked by the blood to a house near by, where he was found in an insensible state. The little boy having informed the party that the boys were in the barn, the barn was at once surrounded, and the rogues were commanded to come out, but not doing so, the barn was fired. Information was at this juncture received that the guilty parties had fled towards the White Fish, and pursuit was at once made, and they were traced towards Briar Hill, where the clue was lost. Halladay lay for some time in a precarious state. Fife is at Lyndhurst, with his head cut in a terrible manner.

As we have stated, the Sheriff left the town at an early hour of the morning to aid in the arrest of the thieves. On arriving at a proper locality, he had warrants of arrest made out in such a way as would cover all the phases of the case likely to arise. He found, however, that the guilty parties had kept themselves concealed till the crowd of pursuers left, and then made off towards the front. Being satisfied on this point, scouts were sent off, and he returned to town on Friday evening in the belief that had the watchers remained at their post till his arrival, some arrests would have been made, but owing to their leaving too soon, the birds were unsnared. Miss Chapman was, however, secured, and after un-

dergoing an examination at Farmersville, was sent to Brockville jail to await her trial for her bold and amazonian conduct in the rescue of her male friends from the hands of the constables. In fact, to her in a great degree may be ascribed the rescue of the thieves, as, armed with a billet of wood, she flew from one struggling party to another, and wherever she could put in a blow she did so in behalf of her companions.

We are happy to state that Mr. Halladay is again moving round. The most dangerous wound received by him was on the back part of the head. The wound was either made by the edge of a stick of wood, or deeply grazed by a pistol ball. Mr. Fife, though fearfully battered about the head and face, is also rapidly recovering.

We are glad to learn that the people are becoming thoroughly aroused, and are determined to scatter the gang, root and branch. As an evidence of this, three constables arrived here on Tuesday morning about four o'clock with the persons of Harman Chase and George C. Chapman, one of them being charged with aiding in the robbery of the store of Sanders and Ruddick in 1866, and the other in aiding and abetting in the rescue of the horse thieves arrested by constable Fife, for whom the Deputy Sheriff is still in search, they having been seen to make for the river near Rockport. It will be seen that the Detective League have offered a reward of \$200 for their capture.

The people of Leeds appear now to have waked up, and are pushing the gang hard. At one time members of the gang were not afraid to present a revolver at a man's heart and tell him if he did not mind his eye and keep silent, he would get the contents of the revolver. Now all this is changed, the people are up and the magistrates active, and robberies of two years ago are brought against the gang, and parties are arrested. Besides the men mentioned above as being now in jail here, another man belonging to Lansdowne, named Serimas Palmer, was lodged in jail yesterday morning, on a charge of stealing a buggy from George Tompkins, of Bastard, in 1867. The buggy we believe was afterwards returned to the owner on his paying one of the Chase family the sum of \$30.

The Deputy Sheriff returned to town on Tuesday evening, after an exciting but unsuccessful hunt after Chase and Chapman. These men had crossed the river opposite the Lansdowne Station about four o'clock in the morning, having driven from the scene of the assault as fast as the horse could carry them. The horse they turned adrift on the road, and the cutter was shoved into an air hole in the ice. The poor horse was so tired out that it was found lying on the snow. It is thought the reward offered will yet cause the arrest of the thieves.

IMMIGRATION.

To the Editor of the Leader.

SIR,—In reference to the article on this important subject, in your paper of Friday, I have no hesitation in declaring from what I have seen in the English papers, that at no former period was there as strong and earnest a desire in influential circles in that country to encourage and assist emigration to the Dominion as there is at present. What we now require is an earnest and intelligent co-operation in this country, with English action on the subject. A late London Standard makes the following interesting suggestions:

"There is indeed, one other way of benefitting the poor of London. What would Mr. Peabody say if, in building abodes for thousands he could at the same time create the means which should pay the rent of those abodes—which should fill them with food and plenty? There is a large amount of building going on in London, which we regret to see. The poor law authorities are about to put more money into bricks and mortar than even Mr. Peabody. They are safe to have tenants, and the tenants will pay no rent at all. If the Peabody fund will save this outlay, or a tolerable proportion of it, the benefit would indeed be great. The way is open. We would suggest it to the trustees. They have £100,000—if not much more—at their command. If the poor of London are to be benefitted what greater benefit could be conferred than placing them where they might build their own houses, and become their own landlords? The earth is the mother of wealth. There is land in Canada which craves the presence of man. All that London can spare of its population Canada can take. There might be a 'Peabody Province' in Canada, where the surplus population of London should take root and flourish in grateful recollection that an American citizen helped them to leave the scene of want and misery at home, and to push their fortunes successfully in a transatlantic clime, but still beneath the old flag. The Canadian Government, now waking up to the true merits of this question, would probably be willing to make a free grant of land sufficient for the purpose. London could well spare a large colony, and though all the emigrants might not at first be thoroughly adapted to their new sphere, experience shows that this is a difficulty which can be surmounted. The movement would benefit those who were left behind, by lessening the crowd of competitors; while those who crossed the ocean would find it no longer a struggle to gain the means of bare existence. The plan has been tried, and it answers. But a large fund is necessary to make it effective in reducing London pauperism, and really benefitting the London poor. A well planned scheme, such as the Peabody trustees might readily undertake, would establish in the Canadian wilderness a trophy even nobler and more enduring than a model lodging-house. A thriving community—almost an infant nation—would be a worthy result of a splendid

gift—a grander monument than the most palatial pile."

The London Guardian, also of the 22nd ult., recommends that a portion of the enormous amounts devoted to charity in London (amounting to the almost fabulous sum of seven millions sterling) should be given in aid of a well concerted scheme of emigration, while the Telegraph has a very favourable notice of the new Dominion as a home for emigrants.

What we especially need now is vigorous action on the part of our Canadian authorities. Without that the feeling in England now so favourable to us will die or be changed into disgust at our listless and most unaccountable apathy.

Yours, A SUBSCRIBER.
January 18.

THE TAVERN LICENSE BILL.

[From the Leader.]

In reviewing the first session of our Local Legislature, we commented upon the many cases in which members of the Government were found taking opposite sides in the House upon their own bills. We are glad to say that there has been a great improvement in this respect this session. Still the unseemly sight has not been altogether wanting. There was an exhibition of the kind in the discussion last week upon the Treasurer's License Bill, which was very unparliamentary, and led to the utter demoralization of the House. It is immaterial now who was responsible for this. But the members of the Government ought to endeavour to avoid the recurrence of events which lead to the expression of different views in the House upon bills regarding which they ought to stand as a unit.

Yesterday the Bill came up again, and we were pleased to see that the improper proceedings of the previous week were not repeated. The Government came down with a resolution fixing the prices of licenses. The members of the Government all agreed upon it, and the result was its adoption by a very large majority. The prices agreed to were these: For tavern licenses—in cities, \$80, instead of \$100; in towns, \$60, instead of \$80; in villages and townships, \$30, instead of \$50; shop licenses in all the municipalities, \$50; saloons, that is to say, drinking places solely, in cities, \$120; in towns, \$100; and in incorporated villages and townships the provincial license is fixed at \$10, instead of \$12. There was a very general agreement in the reduction proposed, the apprehension being strong, and, no doubt, pretty well founded, that if the prices were fixed too high, there would be a greater inducement held out for illicit traffic in spirituous liquors.

As to the time of closing drinking places the Government proposed to make the hour nine on Saturday nights instead of seven. This proposition raised a strong feeling of opposition, to which the Government finally yielded, allowing the hour of closing on Saturday to remain as at present. Mr. Wood gave a very forcible illustration of the ineffectiveness of the present law by appealing to the habits of many of the members themselves, who continually violate it. Publicly, these men set themselves up as preachers of morality, whilst privately they not only have constant proof that the law is not carried out, but admit that they advocate closing at 7 o'clock on Saturday nights simply because they have not the courage to express in the House what their real opinion is. We certainly see no good reason, so long as taverns exist, why they should be compelled to close at an earlier hour on Saturday night than 9 o'clock, even if the law were enforced. But when the members know that they are simply giving countenance to a sham—that they are playing the hypocrite to please some Pecksniffs in their constituencies, it would be more creditable to them to manifest a little more manliness. Even without this provision the bill would be a very stringent one, and there is no good ground for the accusation which has been made that it is conceived friendliness to the Licensed Victualler's Association. We only hope that the heavy penalties which it imposes will have the good effects anticipated.

CABLE NEWS.

GREAT BRITAIN.

LONDON, January 21.—Advices from Madeira to the 14th give no mention of the whereabouts of the 39 missing passengers and crew of the *Hibernia*, who was said to have been landed there. The story of their being picked up is now believed to be unfounded.

The amount of bullion in the Bank of England has increased £99,000 sterling, since the last report.

CONSTANTINOPLE, January 21.—There is a rumour here that the Greek ship *Syratte* fired into a French sloop, and that several persons on board the latter were killed.

FRANCE.

PARIS, January 21.—Minister Burlingame and the chief mandarins of the Chinese Embassy made their first visit to the Minister of Foreign Affairs yesterday, accompanied by the Secretary of the Legation, and Messrs. Brown and Dischoreps. Mr. Burlingame and his companions were very cordially received by the Marquis De Lavellette. The interview was highly satisfactory, and promises a successful result for the mission. The Marquis informed the Embassadors that the Emperor would be pleased to accord them an audience on Sunday next at the Palace of the Tuilleries.

It is officially stated that the Conference awaits the reply of the Greek Government to the resolution which has been adopted. When

that is received the Conference will dissolve.

TURKEY.

Contradiction of the Rumoured Withdrawal of the American Minister from Constantinople.

CONSTANTINOPLE, January 20.—The truth of the report that Mr. Morris, the American Minister to the Sublime Porte, had been recalled by his Government, is positively denied.

NEW ZEALAND.

NEWS VIA LONDON.

LONDON, January 21.—Late advices from Auckland, New Zealand, report that a frightful massacre of the whites by the natives had occurred at Poverty Bay on that Island.

CUBA.

The Commercial Bank not yet Resumed Payment—Sufferings of Fugitive Citizens.

HAVANA, January 21.—Contrary to general expectation the Banco del Comercio has not resumed payment, and its present condition is doubtful. Merchants who invested in the bank are now embarrassed by the loss of their money, and it is reported that several houses intimately connected in their business relations with the bank may fail, unless that institution manages to make an arrangement with its creditors.

Afflicting details are given of the want and sufferings of the fugitive citizens in the mountainous districts, which are uninhabited and destitute of provisions.

The *Diario* informs that the rebel General Perez has offered to surrender himself and the forces under him, provided an unconditional pardon is granted. The Spanish General has conceded to these terms.

AMERICAN NEWS.

From Tennessee.

NEW YORK, January 21.—The *Times* Knoxville special says Gov. Brownlow will arm about 2,000 white troops, who will be sent to counties where the Ku-Klux have been reported.

A Bill providing for the sale of railroads which have not paid the interest on the State bonds loaned them, passed the House of Representatives on its third reading without a dissenting vote.

RICHMOND, VA., January 21.—A Republican meeting last evening adopted resolutions protesting against Congress granting what is asked for by the Virginia Conference committee now in Washington.

The Cuban Revolution Believed to be a Success.

The *Herald's* special says the impression exists here that the Cuban revolution may be called a success.

The "Alabama" Claims Treaty.

NEW YORK, January 21.—The *World* publishes the full text of the *Alabama* claims treaty, which differs from the summary published a few days since:

Article 1 provides for the settling of all claims since February 8, 1853, by two commissioners on each side, and an arbitrator to be chosen by the commissioners.

Article 2—All disagreements are to be referred to an arbitrator, and a sovereign of a friendly State may be made arbitrator, who shall be reported to and agreed upon by the respective governments. Each government may have an agent to support its claims, and to answer to the claims made upon it. The decision of the commissioners or arbitrator is to be final.

Article 3 requires all claims to be presented within six months from the day of meeting, unless good reasons are given for delay, when three months more will be given. All claims are to be decided within two years. The meeting is to take place in Washington.

Article 4 makes the payment of the claims in coin, within 18 months after the decision.

Article 5 makes the result of the proceedings a final settlement of all claims, and a bar against all others.

Article 6 provides for the keeping of a record of the proceedings, and employment of clerks, the expenses to be equally shared by the Governments.

Article 7 provides for the ratification of the convention by the United States Senate, and Her Britannic Majesty as soon as possible, and within 12 months from January 14th, 1869.

—The Californians look with contempt upon the new velocipede. "They will do very well," says an editor, "for Paris, where many people cannot afford to keep horses, and could not ride them very well if they did; but they will never do in California, where boys of ten years of age ride full-grown horses at the top of their speed around the streets. How would a man who has felt his blood stirred by a ten-mile dash in a California saddle feel on finding himself trundling himself through the streets like a schoolboy? We would as soon think of riding a broom-handle, or a rocking hobby-horse."

—It is stated that Smith, the news-dealer, spent over \$75,000 in the Westminster District, in London, to beat John Stuart Mill.