The Weekly Mail.

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TWO COSTLY EXPERIMENTS.

The Agricultural College at Guelph and the Military College at Kingston are two costly experiments. The idea was that being an agricultural people we should encourage the study of scientific agriculture, and that being a military people in a certain sense, our young men should have the benefit of a scientific and practical military curriculum. The time is past for discussing the *pros* and *cons* of the two cases. The institutions have been founded and the idea carried out, and it only remains for us to count the cost. And that the country is paying dear for its two whistles there is no manner of doubt.

The Agricultural College, with the farm and plant, cost of removal from Mimico, loss on sale of Mimico farm, &c., cost in the first instance close on $90,000. Up to the end of 1874 there had been an additional expenditure of $23,000 on Capital Account. In 1875, $12,000 was spent on Capital Account, and the report estimates that $25,000 will have to be spent this year under the same head. So that at the close of 1876 the institution will stand indebted to the Province of Ontario for Capital Account expenditure in the sum of $160,000, or, at 6 per cent., $9,600 a year for all time. The Maintenance Account last year was $18,000, and it is estimated that a similar sum will be required under the same head this year. If, then, which is unlikely, the Capital Account never exceeds a representative interest charge of $9,000 a year, and if the Maintenance Account never exceeds $18,000 a year, which is also unlikely (for under both heads the expenses of all Government institutions increase from year to year from some occult cause, but in a very patent ratio), this institution will cost us hard on [illegible] a year at the very lowest [illegible]. The capacity of [illegible] one of five years. This leaves the cost to the Province of each pupil at $750 a year, and of each graduate of five years at $3,750. And this at once suggests the important question—is the whistle worth the money? As we have said, it is almost too late in the day to discuss that question publicly, for the mischief or the good, as the case may be, has been done. But there is nothing in the world to prevent the taxpayer from turning the matter over in his own mind. The *savant* with a hobby will probably agree with the Principal of the institution (neither being impartial judges) that the institution is of immense benefit to the country. On the other hand, the farmer who argues that in the order which sent forth the first tiller of the soil "in the sweat of his "face to eat his bread," reference to scientific agriculture was purposely omitted, will denounce the institution as a gew-gaw, and the annual expenditure on it as money that might be more advantageously used as a cheap loan to enable poor settlers to keep their chins above their swamps. And to the ordinary farmer it may indeed well appear that the ability to answer examination papers like the following will not materially assist a young farmer to dress a hay-mow or "run" a cheese press:—"Write brief notes on exosmose, endosmose, cyclosis, peduncle, pedicle, "stomata," etc. At all events, all will agree that $30,000 is a large sum to pay every year for teaching forty youths how to put that array of gnarled cabala into the vernacular of the barn and farmyard.

The Military College with its building appurtenances and appliances had cost the Dominion $30,000 to the 30th June last, when the building was finished; $30,000 was voted to cover the current expenses up to the 30th June next, and $26,000 is asked for the same purpose up to 30th June, 1877. This looks very much like an annual outlay of $25,000 a year. At the present time there are eight pupils in the institution. The class in this country who can afford to give themselves up for years to learning the art of war is a most limited one. The General in command significantly says, "the benefits to be "derived from this College are as yet "too remote to calculate upon for the "immediate improvement of the Dominion militia."

The answer that these two experiments, although of little practical use now, will be of vast benefit to the country hereafter, is not altogether satisfactory. There is such a thing as doing too much for posterity, and we are certainly laying out a goodly sum for teaching our grand-children how to use reaping-hooks and [illegible] weapons of war.

MANIPULATING A CONTRACT.

In the early part of the session Dr. Tupper asked the Government if a steam tender for carrying the mails and passengers from the ocean steamers to Father Point obtained from Mr. Cantin, of Montreal, had been contracted for by public tender. The Minister of Public Works replied that it had not, but that circulars had been sent round to several of the leading ship-builders, and that that of Mr. Cantin was the lowest. Not satisfied with this statement, Dr. Tupper moved for a return of all the papers in the case. They have just been laid before Parliament and fully bear out what before was but a suspicion, that a considerable extent of favouritism was shown to Mr. Cantin, whose intimate relations with one Minister at all events are well known.

Mr. Brydges was instructed by the Government to make enquiries as to the best way in which the desired tender could be obtained. He reported that Sir Hugh Allan had offered to provide a boat and perform the service for $10,000 a year; and that the St. Lawrence Tow Boat Company asked what Mr. Brydges estimated would be equal to $16,000 a year. Mr. Brydges, believing that it was better that the boat should belong to and be worked by the Department, "got Mr. Cantin, the ship-"builder of Montreal, * * to "make a plan of such a boat "as would be necessary, and to ten-"der for its construction." He did so, in conjunction with Mr. Gilbert, who was to make the engines. Mr. Cantin agreed to furnish a boat "eighty feet "long, eighteen feet beam, and nine feet "hold, covered in, with a cabin sufficient "to accommodate all the passengers that "may want to land, and ample room for "the mails and baggage. The price of "this boat complete, with anchors and "chains, and fitted up for the accommo-"dation of the crew, would be between "$16,000 and $17,000." And Mr. Brydges estimated that the annual cost of working, including interest on cost of construction, would be $5,200 for the eight months. He recommended, therefore, that this course should be taken by the Government, to which they assented, and authorized him to obtain offers from "the most reliable shipbuilders." This Mr. Brydges at once proceeded to do. Mr. William Coleman, of Quebec, declined to tender, on the ground that his yard was already full. Messrs. Cantin and Gilbert, of Montreal, united in an offer to build the boat for $16,350. Messrs. W. P. Bartley & Co., of the same place, sent in a tender for $21,900. Their tender, however, was for a vessel a hundred feet long, while Messrs. Cantin and Gilbert's was for one eighty feet long. The circular asked for tenders for a boat "to be not less than eighty feet, "and not more than a hundred feet long, "about eighteen feet beam, and nine "feet hold." The tenders were sent in on 24th January, and the contract was awarded to Messrs. Cantin and Gilbert. Whether it should have been so awarded, let the following letter from Bartley & Co., written a week later than the day on which the tenders were sent in, and before the award was made, attest:

"Ottawa, January 31st, 1876.

"*C. J. Brydges, Esq.*:

"Dear Sir,—Having learned that our competitors tendered for a steamer for the Rimouski service of only eighty feet long and with one engine, as the writer explained to you last Saturday afternoon, and, as you remember, after a conversation with you on Wednesday, 19th, the morning I received your letter asking my firm to tender, that I should tender for a vessel of one hundred feet long, and as the word in your letter called for *cylinders* of 22 in. diameter, and 20 in. stroke, we tendered for a vessel of 100 feet by 18 feet beam and 9 feet hold. If the vessel is to attain anything of a decent speed and to give comfortable accommodation, 100 feet is really a very small boat for such service; but what we regret is that we had not the good fortune to tender for precisely the same class of engine and boat as our competitors, so that you would see at a glance who was the cheapest.

"We now propose to furnish a vessel 80 feet long, 18 feet beam, and 9 feet hold, and in all other respects in accordance with your specifications, for the sum of $15,975. With a vessel same as our tender, 100 feet long, with engine, cylinder 22 x 20 inches stroke, either of the plan of boiler B or A, as per drawing, of ample capacity to supply steam for the efficient working of said engine, with boiler on plan B, the price would be $17,950; if built off plan A, the price would be $500 more—as this plan is much more expensive than plan B, although the latter is equally strong and reliable as plan A. As our tender was so far different from the other tender, we trust you will do us the justice to consider this tender on its merits, as though it had been received in due time. We will give the same security as named in our tender—Messrs. Mulholland and Baker.

"Your very obedient servants,

"W. P. BARTLEY & Co.

"Note.—By giving the order to us, you will have but little cash to pay out, as we owe the Government a considerable sum for rent of hydraulic lots, which we are anxious to pay, and for which you can deduct from price of steamer.

"W. P. BARTLEY."

Not a single word need be added to this letter to show the farcical character of the applications made to the builders in question. So wide a margin as to the dimensions of the boat rendered it quite impossible that a fair basis of comparison between the several tenders could afterwards be made. And, indeed, Messrs. Bartley & Co. assert that their tender was based upon a verbal understanding with the Government's agent as to the size of the boat, while the tender of Messrs. Cantin & Gilbert as to another size was accepted. These facts clearly enough establish that there was nothing like fairness in the tendering; and we are quite sure, all the attendant circumstances being known, that we do not go too far when we say that the giving of the job to Messrs. Cantin & Gilbert was but the carrying out of a foregone conclusion. It is a very good [illegible] pretence of fairness while eschewing the system of public contract, tenders are manipulated by a "Reform" Government in favour of its particular pets and especial favourites.

THE STEEL RAILS DEBATE.

It would appear to be some consolation to the people of British Columbia that 5,000 tons of steel rails were dispatched to the Pacific slope *after* the defeat of the Nanaimo and Esquimalt railway in the Senate by the friends of the Government enabled the Administration to drop that undertaking. If they cannot have a railway they can at least have rails; even though, as Dr. Tupper pointed out in the debate, rails will perish faster stacked, by reason of oxidation, than if laid and in everyday use. We presume we must attribute to this circumstance the fact that the entire delegation from the Pacific Province voted on Friday for the steel rails purchase, which Mr. Bowell's motion most properly declared to have been unwise and to have occasioned great loss to the country. There was more reason, perhaps, in the Manitoba members voting the same way. Whatever progress is being made on the railway, their people at all events have the big end of the stick. And of this, let us say, in order to avoid misapprehension, we do not complain; the central position of Manitoba, and the primal necessity of utilizing the Saskatchewan Valley for purposes of colonization and settlement, make it imperative that, whatever delay may take place elsewhere, there should be as little as possible in bringing the vast Prairie Region of the Dominion into easy communication with its settled portions. Notwithstanding the facts which we have here stated, it could be no easy thing to declare the reverse of the propositions contained in the amendment, but if there is any excuse the members from Manitoba can urge it most strongly, and next to them the members from British Columbia, who will be able, on the wharves of Victoria and Esquimalt, to admire the beauties of thousands of tons of steel rails which can by no possibility be used for some years from the date of their purchase.

A striking feature of the debate was the equivocation and inaccuracy of the Premier—traits of his character which became prominently noticeable last session for the first time. He met Mr. Bowell's opening remarks in reference to the delay in bringing down the papers on this [illegible] which had been asked for nearly five weeks before, with the assertion that he had laid some of the papers on the table at the opening of the session, and that he had told the member for Cumberland that it would be impossible for him to have any more papers. In this the Premier, during the temporary absence of Dr. Tupper from the House, was simply coining "facts" in the capacious fact-manufactory of his own brain to meet an emergency. Not a tittle of information has been vouchsafed the House on this question, except as to the quantities of rails purchased and the prices paid for them. Dr. Tupper's motion was for a score of details bearing directly upon the controversy provoked on this prolific subject. When, after some delay, Dr. Tupper reached it on a night when the House agreed to pass all notices which did not provoke debate, Mr. Mackenzie uttered not a word beyond a *brusque* "carried," designed to indicate the little dread he had of all the information asked for being given to the House. Apparently ignorant of the particular nature of his equivocation on Friday, he, on Saturday, when prodded by Sir John Macdonald, said he was not even aware that the papers had been asked for until the fact was mentioned in the previous day's debate. The one equivocation on the point was bad enough; the second, coming so soon on the first, is simply shameful and without excuse. But it was not in this respect only that the Premier's inaccuracy of statement was painfully manifest. It is simply shocking to those who know better, and who cannot but be conscious that he knows better too, to find the Premier deliberately deceiving the House and the country as to the extent of publicity given to the advertisement for steel rails. We shall be glad if he will give us the name of one paper besides the Montreal *Herald* in which the original advertisement appeared: and we are able to state it as a fact that even the second advertisement, for which his friends now seek to give him credit, (as well give a footpad credit for disgorging in the presence of superior strength), did not appear in the Toronto *Globe* and the Ottawa *Times*. Whether it appeared it any of the other papers which he named in the House we cannot say, for we have not the means of testing his statement to that extent, but it is quite certain that his deception was on a grand scale.

So far as it is possible, without the official papers, to get at the facts of this case they are in the possession of the reader. The debate certainly does not weaken the force of the case against the Government, while the incidental circumstances to which we have alluded must strengthen it. Had Mr. Mackenzie possessed sufficient magnanimity of character to have said to the House that he had committed an error of judgment in purchasing so large a quantity of rails years before they were required, he would have taken the sting largely out of the charge made against him. But in declaring it to have been a wise transaction, justified by the then circumstances, and by those which have since arisen, and that he had nothing to regret in the matter, he leaves himself open to the severest animadversion. There is no necessity for our going into the facts here. So far as they are known, we have ourselves presented them to the reader more than once, and they were brought out largely in the speeches of Messrs. Bowell and Tupper, which we published on Saturday. The leading facts are incontrovertible. Mr. Mackenzie invited tenders for steel rails—first at five days' notice in a single paper, and subsequently at a largely extended time—for what proves to have been about 50,000 tons, involving a direct cost of over two millions and a half of dollars, when he had not a mile of road graded. It is now a year and a half since the advertisement first appeared, and the first rail has not yet been laid. Five thousand tons have been sent to British Columbia, where there is nothing doing, or likely to be done for a year to come, except prosecuting the surveys; eleven thousand tons are to be put into the Intercolonial railway, so as to make the transaction bear a somewhat better appearance than if they were still kept on Pacific railway account, for which they were purchased; a couple of thousand tons are in the Red river country, and more are to be sent to the same place; and some eighteen thousand tons are not yet delivered, though paid for a year ago. Then, it will be remembered, these purchases were made at a time when the market was steadily falling. Mr. Mackenzie endeavoured to draw some comfort out of a comparison of his purchases with those for the Intercolonial railway, but he did not make much by this motion, for it was shown that the latter were made when the market had taken a rise, and that a large sum of money had been saved by the wisdom displayed in the investment. Besides, the Intercolonial rails were only paid for as they were required, on delivery. No man can take all the circumstances into account, and honestly declare that the Premier's was a good commercial transaction. To make such an assertion is either to display an ignorance of the facts or a most confiding political disposition.

Apart from the commercial, there is the constitutional view of the subject. Mr. Mackenzie holds himself absolved from blame in this respect because he withheld payment for the rails contracted for until after the vote in Supply had been taken. This is avoiding the question. The essential element of the unconstitutional course which he took was his entering into binding contracts without the authority or consent of Parliament. But we shall not pursue this subject now, for, from the remark made in the House on Saturday by Sir John Macdonald, we look for a further discussion of this question before the close of the session. The papers being promised for Monday next another opportunity will be taken of dealing with the matter. And we feel confident that in Sir John Macdonald's hands ample prominence will be given to the shameful violation of constitutional practice [illegible] of which the Premier has been guilty. That Mr. Mackenzie will [illegible] ready to [illegible] him we do not doubt; we have had ample proof of the capacity of his following to swallow anything he may put before it. But, as Dr. Tupper said on Friday night, we can appeal from it to the people, and we have no doubt as to what the response from the electors will be whenever the opportunity is afforded them to cast their ballots.

"THAT GREAT FLEET, INVINCIBLE."

Our navy is composed as follows:

Napoleon III. (screw).	Druid (paddle).
Lady Head (screw).	Sir James Douglas (screw).
Glendon (screw).	Newfield (screw).

In addition to the above, two small river police steamers, the Dolphin and Adele, steam about Quebec harbour carrying the harbour-master. La Canadienne, which kept the Gulf in order for twenty years, became a sheer hulk and went down while on her way to Halifax in 1874, and the old Richelieu has been passed over to the Montreal Harbour Commissioners. Of the six vessels named above, the Napoleon is described in the Marine and Fisheries Report for last year as a powerful steamer, but as her machinery is old-fashioned she is to be reduced to the calling of a "spare "boat to keep at Quebec for occasional "service, or for any emergency." The Druid is employed in light-house and buoy service. The Lady Head attends to the fog-whistles and lighthouses on the Acadian coasts and in the waters of the Bay of Fundy. The Sir James Douglas is in attendance on the British Columbia lights. The Glendon was bought by the Department in June, 1875, and is being fitted up for the fisheries service. The Newfield is the most powerful vessel of the fleet. She was bought by the Department in August, 1875, and is employed in carrying coals to the steam fog-whistles and the coal depots, and oil and other supplies to the lighthouses. Her dimensions are—length 206 feet, breadth 29, depth 15, and her tonnage is 785 tons gross, and 509 tons register.

The annual cost to the country of this coal and lamp-wick armada could not be much more extravagant if Mr. Edward Jenkins were lord high admiral. The following is the record: The Newfield, the best of the fleet of six, cost £11,200 or $56,000. The other five are possibly worth $40,000 apiece at the outside. As the Newfield and the Glendon were not bought until the middle of 1875, the accounts to hand do not include the cost of any repairs which may have been made in them. But for the year ending the 30th June, 1874, the other four worth, say, $40,000 each, ran up bills for repairs, etc., as follows:—

Napoleon III	$27,300
Druid	22,120
Lady Head	30,000
Sir James Douglas	10,500

This was an average outlay for repairs equal to over half the probable value of the vessels; and one would have thought the gallant quartette would have been enabled to ride the "battle and the "breeze" for three or four years at all events without further extraordinary outlay. But that was not to be. The year following, (which ended on the 30th June last) the Department put the four in dry dock and gave them an overhauling which in the case of the Napoleon III. and Douglas at least probably cost more than the first construction:

Napoleon III	$56,000
Druid	15,000
Lady Head	23,000
Sir James Douglas	42,000

And, let taxpaying land lubbers shiver their timbers, the work of reconstruction is actually to be continued this year, and $80,000 spent on the four above-named and the Newfield, which was only bought last year! It is hardly worth while adding up and comparing these several totals to show that instead of repairing our navy every year, it would be better to sell it off as old material at an annual auction, and, adding to the sum thus realized a small appropriation, buy a bran new fleet every season.

A HOPELESS APPEAL.

Mr. Isaac Buchanan has addressed a communication to the members of the Dominion Parliament on the subject of the present depression, and the duty of the Government and Legislature in the premises. He recalls the way in which at a former period, following the great financial crisis of 1857, confidence was restored and industry revived by the wise national policy of the Conservative Ministry of the day, which gave to old Canada its first protective tariff, and its first start as a manufacturing country on any considerable scale. The tariff of 1859 had this wonderful good effect, that it inspired *confidence* in the business community, and that meant plenty of employment, good wages, and good times for all. As Mr. Buchanan says, it was not the consideration of the duty imposed on foreign goods that gave confidence, but the feeling that the country had a Parliament with a knowledge of and sympathy for its distresses. It is the country's calamity to-day that the very antithesis of this description applies to the Mackenzie Government, and the servile majority by which it is sustained. The fact that the Premier is a Free Trader is itself a depressing influence of most evil omen; and every verbal quibble by which Mr. Mills and Mr. Dymond gain an apparent advantage over witnesses whom they are examining, does incalculable damage. While a Free Trade Government chuckles over its majority in the House, there is weeping in many households, and many of our real bone and sinew are preparing to leave for the States. The Montreal *Star* the other day said that the movement of Canadian commercial houses to New York is likely to assume much wider proportions than before indicated, and that the present year will witness a commercial exodus of an extraordinary and amazing nature. No one can listen to the current talk of the street without knowing that mechanics and workingmen in large numbers are about to seek over the border the employment which they cannot obtain at home. And at this time of crisis the Premier of the Dominion, and the managing director of the journal that expounds his policy, are members of the Cobden Club. Mr. Buchanan must receive credit for his patriotic intentions; but his appeal is a hopeless one. It is the view of Mr. Mackenzie and the *Globe* together that the present depression is due to general and not to local causes, and that when times become better in the United States they will improve in Canada too. As we have before endeavoured to show, this is a very incomplete and defective view of the situation. Our neighbours have been, and still are, suffering under the collapse which naturally comes after the excitement of a great war, and England suffers from the failure of foreign customers for her goods. But we have had no war, and, as we are only to a trifling extent exporters of manufactured goods, the failure of foreign markets for such goods should not affect us. We have for some years had good crops and good prices for produce, and the farmers have been fairly prosperous. In the lumber trade there has been a considerable falling off, both in demand and in price, and this is the *only* cause of depression which it was out of our power to have prevented. It is a question of some interest whether the falling off in the lumber trade during these two or three years past is a cause of magnitude sufficient to account for the depression. No reasonable man will maintain that it is, and we are therefore shut up to the conclusion that some other cause must be sought for. Commercial depression abroad, except so far as it has affected the lumber trade, cannot be dragged in to account for depression in Canada, because the demand for what we have to sell has not failed. No matter what failure there may be of the market for manufactured goods, our farm and dairy produce sells promptly for cash down. [illegible] to the extent that the depression here is due to the falling off in the lumber trade, there should have been no depression at all.

Mr. Buchanan hits the nail on the head when he says that the present industrial paralysis in Canada originated largely in its being shown, by the Draft Treaty negotiations, that we had a Government that was prepared to carry Free Trade with all the world in one stride [illegible] the United States. [illegible] tion of Government policy which it made still remains, and puts a chill upon industrial enterprise. And we think that Mr. Buchanan makes but a futile appeal when he asks the Government that destroyed public confidence to reverse their policy, and so restore it. To expect any such patriotic course to be taken by the present men is hopeless in the extreme; and, as we have before said, to obtain a change of system there must be a change of Government.

DON'T SEND THE MONEY.

We feel it to be our duty to the Canadian public to advertise, free of charge, a certain enterprising New York company, which professes to carry on the sewing machine business. A short time ago we received a well-got-up business letter, ordering the insertion of a large advertisement, and saying that part payment in cash would be sent immediately on receipt of the first number of our paper in which it appeared. The letter had a very imposing lithographic heading, thus—"The Internation-"al Sewing Machine Company, Lim-"ited; sole American depot, 181 Broadway, New York." The addresses of the "European branches" of this Company were given, at London, Liverpool, Paris, and Berlin; and the information was conveyed that Mr. Edward J. Rudolph was the "acting and re-"sponsible manager" of the Company in America. The advertisement we were asked to insert set forth that the "Wash-"ington Sewing Machine," described as perfect in workmanship, elegant in design, and without an equal in the world, would be sent to any address for $45, on the following terms: $10 to accompany order, $5 in three months, $10 in six months, $10 in nine months, and the last payment of $10 in twelve months; or for $40 cash down. It was stated that orders by mail or express would meet with prompt and immediate attention, (somewhat of a repetition, this) all letters being answered the same day as received; and it was added; "remember, no "matter what the distance, the Company "pay all costs of carriage and deliver the "machine free to your own door." This appeared to us to be rather a "taking" offer on the part of the great International Company, so much so, indeed, that our suspicions were aroused. We wondered whether such a "business man" as Mr. Rudolph from his letter to us appeared to be, would actually send to a Tom, Dick, or Harry, living in Toronto, St. Catharines, or Cobourg, for instance, a machine worth $45, on receipt of $10 only, taking his chance of getting the balance from somebody he had never seen or heard of before, and whose name he would look for in vain in Dun & Wiman's reference book. A little enquiry resulted in confirming our suspicions, and brought us to the conclusion that the "International" would bear being well watched. In the last number of Rowell & Co's. *Newspaper Reporter*, published in New York, the following quotation from a contemporary is given:

"'Is this a Humbug?' is the question that meets our eye many times every month. Circulars, pamphlets, and advertising propositions are sent to us in large numbers. On many of these is the comment, 'Here is another humbug, show it up;' but with many others we find an enquiry which may be condensed into 'Is this a humbug?' In such matters there is a very safe rule. If a scheme or proposition of any kind presents itself in such a manner that you feel little confidence in it, and are obliged to ask some one else if it is not a humbug, you may be very sure that is a thing to be let alone."

And the *Newspaper Reporter*, an excellent authority on frauds, as well as on many other matters, and with good opportunity of knowing the standing of parties professing to carry on business in New York, thus answers:

"Taking this view, we would like to ask those who are advertising for the International Sewing Machine Co., 181 Broadway, N.Y.; Wm. English, 340 East Sixteenth st., N.Y.; Baxter & Co., 17 Wall street, N.Y.; C. B. Thompson, Bridgewater, Conn.; Triumph Truss Co., 334 Bowery, N.Y.; Felix Clare & Co., 224 East 113th street, N.Y., whether they had good reason to suppose these firms worthy of credit. *We* have never been able to learn that they were."

Now, if there be any of our readers who has seen the "International" Company's advertisement, and who is about to remit $10, with the expectation of getting by return of express a $45 "Washington" sewing machine, intending honestly to pay the balance in three, six, nine, and twelve months, as per agreement, we would say to such an one, "Don't send "the money." And if there be any intending rogue amongst us, who would send the $10, expecting to make that his first, last, and only payment, thereby swindling the estimable Mr. Rudolph out of $35, we shall not be sorry if he does send the money, and so repeat once more the old story of "the biter bit."

—Since the above was written the following letter has been received:

Office of the Superintendent of Police of the City of New York, 300 Mulberry Street, New York, March 29th, 1876.

Sir,—In reply to yours of the 23rd inst., I will state that the "International Machine Co.," supposed to be located at 181 Broadway, is a *miserable fraud and swindle*. The purported agent and manager, E. J. Rudolph, hired a desk in one of the rooms about a month ago, but has not been seen around there of late. The Post Office authorities have, in their right to prevent the use of the "mails" for swindling purposes, stopped nearly all communications addressed to that concern.

Very respectfully, yours, &c.,
GEO. W. WALLING,
Superintendent.

THE NEW RUSSIAN POLICY.

When we speak of a new Russian policy we do not mean anything new in the larger sense, but merely a change for the occasion. An occasion, it appears, has now arisen. At a time when a powerful insurrection threatens the existence of the Turkish Empire, Russian journals, which cannot do so without official permission, advise the insurgents to persevere and hope. Rumours appear in print, that the Czar will abdicate, for a time, at least, and that the present Czarewitch will be Czar immediately under the title of Alexander the Third. Now, these rumours of the day may be true, or they may not. But what is true is that the Anti-German party is becoming very aggressive in Russia, and that the Crown Prince is an active promoter of their designs. It may be that Alexander the Second, the Czar of all the Russias as he is, would like to die quietly in his bed instead of furnishing another proof of the witty saying that the government of Russia is a despotism tempered by assassination. Concerning office-holders in the United States a distinguished American once wrote that "few die and none resign," but it is not too bold a suggestion to say that a Russian Emperor may resign with a view to the lengthening of his days.

In *le haute politique* something like this appears to be going on. The alliance between Russia and Germany is in the course of being sundered, is, in fact broken, if Alexander the Third is to be Czar immediately. There would then be a new Russian policy, in the sense of antagonism to Germany. And that is what is now brewing. The rumour of the Czar's abdication is to be understood as intimating to the world that his particular pro-German policy has been dropped, and that the "Old Russian" policy must now prevail, whether in his own or in other hands. And that, again, means the rupture of the recent Imperial Alliance. It is safe to affirm the fact of a new Russian policy, in certain important respects; and it may fairly be argued that a new British policy, to meet contingencies, may be in order.

THE PACIFIC RAILWAY.

There can be nothing more damaging to any cause than that those who should be its best friends, and, it may be, desire to be its friends, should prove to be its greatest enemies. The most bitter opponent of a Canadian Pacific railway in Parliament could not have done it as much harm as Mr. DeCosmos, in proposing an illogical resolution at an improper time. No doubt the senior member for Victoria, B.C., means well for the scheme and his Province [illegible] ought to be able to see, in the wretched minority in which he was left the other evening, how necessary it is for the ablest men in Parliament to consider the circumstances by which they are surrounded, and, however clear they may be themselves, frequently to subordinate their own views to those who have a right to advise them. Before he made his motion Mr. DeCosmos was aware that he could not carry with him even his colleagues from British Columbia. They pleaded with him that no steps should be taken in the matter by any representative from their Province until the Government had spoken; but he was obstinate, and now he is at leisure to chew the cud of a bitter disappointment. He can claim but a very small success indeed when in a matter so nearly affecting the interests of his own Province he could not carry all of its representatives with him.

The debate, though so futile in its immediate result, was not without instruction. The Ministry reserve what they have to say for a later occasion; though we can already form a tolerably fair idea that when they do speak they will not have much to say. The still backward state of the surveys, and the reduced estimate of Pacific railway account, tell their own tale. The salient feature of the debate was the extent of hostility to the railway which has been developed in the Grit ranks within the past few years. One does not attach great consequence to what so persistent a chatterbox as Mr. Davies of Prince Edward Island says on any question; but we would take the liberty of telling him that when referring to a matter which was solemnly settled before the Province which he represents came into the Union he ought to "speak low." When we call to mind how completely he controlled the Cabinet in the matter of the tariff we cannot be surprised at the oracular deliverance on any subject of Mr. Jones of Halifax. His vision is not large enough to extend across the continent. One ocean is enough for him. Mr. Charlton, who is a clear thinker when he chooses to think independently of Party views, can hardly have faith in the figures with which he seeks to frighten the House and the country. Indeed they were completely knocked on the head by Mr. Plumb, who properly takes us to the Union Pacific railway, and asks us to learn from the results of American energy and enterprise how to push a railway from ocean to ocean. Ignorant of the experience of the American Pacific railway, one of the Grit speakers laid it down as a primal necessity of construction that settlement must precede the railway. The reverse has been the case [illegible] has created settlement—has built up towns and cities with a celerity which has no parallel in history. And there is no reason why the same thing should not happen in Canada, if the work of construction were taken in hand in a proper manner. We certainly have no faith that the road will ever be built by the Government exclusively with Government money. Parliament never intended such a thing, and to pursue such a policy will inevitably and surely lead to disaster. On this point Mr. Alexander's speech in the Senate was conclusive. But we are wandering somewhat from our immediate subject. What we desire to point out here is the great change which has come over the Grit mind. It cannot grasp now what only a few years ago it declared to be an absolute necessity. That Government, the Grit Party said, which would not undertake the construction of the railway would be traitors to the country and deserving the scorn and contempt of the public. It took some strong words from Mr. Dymond to awaken his associates on the right of the Speaker to the stupidity of their talk. All parties, he very properly told them, were pledged to the construction of the railway, and it was folly now to whine over what we had undertaken to do, and must do. These are sensible words, and ought to have some weight with men who now are bold enough even to utter the word Repudiation.

One of the most silly, as it is one of the most reprehensible, argumenta used by those who now are not favourably disposed towards the undertaking, is that we should not spend so large an amount of money upon a mere handful of people. Akin to this is the attempt to show that the Pacific Province has received more money from the Treasury than she has contributed to it. If we were to look at Confederation after this *per capita* valuation manner we should be disposed to think that the sooner we resolved ourselves back into the ante-Confederation state the better. The stand which he was compelled to take on Mr. DeCosmos' motion gave to Sir John Macdonald the opportunity to rebut an argument which, we regret to say, finds a place in the latest Minute of Council of the Canadian Government on the Pacific railway question. If it were simply a railway for 15,000 persons on the Pacific Slope, there would be but one voice as to whether a trans-continental railway should be constructed or not. But it is nothing of the kind. It is not a Provincial but a Dominion question; and it ought to be plain to the commonest understanding that without the railway there can be no real or lasting Union. We might go on as we are now for some years; but we could not permanently continue to be a territorial Confederation of Provinces, welded together by common interests and cemented by the one uniform spirit of loyal attachment to the Empire. It is to be regretted that the Government has provoked an enquiry which contains the shallowest *ad captandum* argument; an enquiry which appeals to the worst side of that public opinion which it is desirable should be cultivated to patriotic ends. It is doubtless true that the Administration have got this great subject into a sorry mess. For two years they have simply drifted; and now they are almost as helpless as a ship without a rudder, frightened with the magnitude of the undertaking, and wanting in capacity and vigour to grapple with it manfully. It is a pitiable spectacle enough; but it will not mend matters to drag in extraneous calculations and issues. "The darkest hour is just "before the dawn." There will come an end to the present drifting, and then the subject will be diverted into its proper groove again. But we do not look for so necessary a change so long as Messrs. Mackenzie, Blake, and Cauchon direct public affairs in the Dominion.

A Recommendation.—When Justice Potter reached his office yesterday morning a man about forty years old and decidedly old-fashioned in look was there waiting for him. He talked about the weather for awhile, and then remarked:—"A man down here on Larned street sent me to you, saying that you could recommend me to some nice-looking widow." The Court has become used to such applications, and without betraying any surprise he gave the stranger written directions to find a widow who lives in the northern part of the city. The man went away, but returned in the course of two hours, one of his eyes growing black and blue, a scratch on his nose, a torn coatcollar, and a generally unsettled look. He sat down, pulled up his pant leg to exhibit the marks of a dog bite, pointed to his eye and grimly observed:—"I believe you recommended me to a widow?" "Yes." "But she didn't want to marry—didn't seem to care anything about the holy bonds of wedlock!" "I didn't think she would!" sighed his Honour, as he turned to his law-books again. The stranger looked at him for five or six minutes, and then went out without another word.—*Detroit Free Press.*

SUMMARY OF NEWS.

BY CUNARD STEAMER.

From Liverpool, March 18th.

THE ROYAL TITLES ACT.

[illegible] by the Marquis of Hartington, and who moved a curiously-worded amendment, declaring that while the House was willing to consider such addition to the royal style and titles as "might seem meet to her Majesty," it was of opinion that it was inexpedient to impair the ancient and royal dignity of the Crown by the assumption "of the style and title of Emperor." Excluding tellers, 505 members took part in the division, of whom 405 were English, 49 Scotch, and 51 Irish representatives. Of the English members 256 voted for and 149 against the bill, of the Irish representatives 27 for and 24 against, and of the Scotch members 22 voted for and 27 against the bill. Thus the Marquis of Hartington's amendment was rejected by 305 to 200. The Liberal members who supported the bill were Colonel Carington, the Marquis of Lorne, Sir Andrew Lusk, Viscount Macduff, Sir R. Peel, Sir F. Perkins, Mr. Ripley, Mr. Roebuck, the Marquis of Stafford, and Mr. Yeaman. The Home Rule members who voted with the Government were Sir G. Bowyer, Mr. Brady, Mr. Maurice Brooks, Mr. Callan, Sir J. McKenna, Mr. O'Clery, and Major O'Gorman. Mr. Disraeli and all the members of his Government, with the exception of Lord H. Lennox, who is confined to his house by an accident, gave their votes with the majority. The minority was made up exclusively of Liberals and Home Rulers, not a single Conservative supporting Lord Hartington's amendment. The Liberals numbered 182, and the Home Rulers 18. Mr. Gladstone and, with one exception, all the members of the Administration who now occupy seats in the House of Commons, voted in the minority. The one exception was Mr. John Bright, who, after listening to the debate until midnight, left the House before the division was called.

A ROW IN THE "TICHBORNE" CAMP.

In the House of Commons Mr. Whalley, in calling attention to certain new affidavits repeated his inquiry whether the Home Secretary will either act on the new depositions laid before him with regard to the identity of Orton or will prosecute the deponents. It was entirely Dr. Kenealy's fault that these deponents were not called at the trial. The person whom the defendant employed as his counsel deliberately refused to call those witnesses. No one had sympathised with the hon. member for Stoke in his persecution more than he, but that very persecution had conferred on the hon. member for Stoke a great fortune, had made him a great political leader, and had gained him a seat in that House. Without saying how that fortune was acquired—(laughter)—without saying whether his advocacy of the cause of the convict was judicious, or referring to his subsequent career, on which he would make no observations—(laughter)—he would ask was it right to make the convict responsible for the conduct of this advocate of his? (Laughter.) The Lord Chancellor and the highest authorities had declared that he was guilty of every indecorum and unworthy of the confidence of the court, much less of that of this unhappy man. (Laughter.) He made no imputation on the hon. member for Stoke [illegible] was absolutely conclusive. He might say the hon. member refused to hear himself (Mr. Whalley). (Laughter.) The hon. member in the exercise of that discretion which had been so much denounced did not choose to call him. (Laughter.) It could have been made absolutely certain that the man in Dartmoor was innocent of the offence charged. The witnesses referred to in the question must either prove that innocence or be guilty of perjury. Mr. Cross replied that he had read all the papers which had been sent to him, and none of them had induced him to alter his opinion that the verdict in the Orton prosecution was a just one. He was perfectly convinced of the justice of the sentence, and saw no reason for further action. Dr. Kenealy—Under ordinary circumstances when a member is attacked in this House is it allowed to reply. I have considered whether I ought to give any answer to the hon. member for Peterborough, and I have come to the conclusion that his observations are beneath my notice. (Much laughter.)

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

The Royal Commission on the Factory and Workshop Acts has issued its report, recommending that various Acts be consolidated, that workshops should be regarded as factories, that the Consolidating Act should include places of work in the open air and bakehouses; that the hours should not exceed twelve daily all the year round, that two hours should be reserved for meals in factories, and one hour and a half in workshops; that the attendance at school of all children, whether at work or not, should be enforced by law, the school age being from five to thirteen, and the rule of attendance five hours daily; that half-time attendance, however, should be conceded to all children above ten years of age employed according to the Consolidated Act, and that no child under that age should be allowed to work.

A SCOTCH CLERGYMAN STABBED BY A BEGGAR.

A telegram from Glasgow states that while the Rev. Robert Taylor was making his pastoral visits he was beset in Ardgowan street, by a drunken man, who demanded alms of him. Mr. Taylor refused, and told the man to go away, but the fellow getting exasperated, drew a knife and stabbed Mr. Taylor in the left breast. The assailant then fled. From his accent he is believed to be an Irishman; he has not yet been apprehended. The wound is severe and dangerous.

THE AMERICAN MAILS.

In reply to Mr. Baxter, Sir C. Adderley said it was intended after the end of this year to despatch the mails to the United States under arrangements similar to those which had prevailed in the United States Postal Service for sending mails to this country since the 1st of January, 1874. This plan is to employ without contract such vessels only as have proved their efficiency, and to pay the owners according to the weight of mail matter carried.

TERRIBLE SUFFERINGS AT SEA.

The ship Greta, Captain M'Credie, has arrived in the Mersey from San Francisco, having on board the captain, first mate, and eight men of the sailing ship Great Britain, whom they had picked up in an open boat in the Atlantic about 600 miles from Cape Clear. They passed through terrible suffering. The vessel was bound from Darien to Liverpool, with a cargo of timber, but encountering very tempestuous weather, she became completely water-logged. The crew remained by her, however, for some days, during which the captain's two sons died. At last, seeing no hope of rescue, the captain and crew, numbering thirteen men, took to a boat, leaving the captain's dead sons on the vessel. The provisions having been nearly all spoiled very little could be taken on board the boat, and for six days they were tossed about, enduring the agony of slow starvation. On the seventh day a steamer was sighted, and every possible means were taken to attract the attention of those on board, but without success, and as the steamer disappeared the unfortunate crew gave themselves up to despair. The cook, who up to that time had been the most cheerful and had tried to keep up the spirits of his companions, became completely despondent, and died that night from exhaustion. Next day another man died, and, as those who were left had been without food or drink for three days, they ate the livers of their dead comrades, selecting these parts on account of the blood which they contained, and with which they quenched their terrible thirst. On the following day a third man died, and the remainder were so reduced that they could barely crawl about the boat. On the ninth day after leaving their vessel they were picked up by the Greta and taken on board, where every kindness was shown them, but their privations had been so severe that when they were landed at Liverpool the majority were so weak that they had to be taken to hospital. The captain, however, was able to go to his own home. The Great Britain was a ship of 888 tons register, built at St. John, N.B., in 1846, and was owned by Mr. Wm. G. Bragg, of Liverpool.

THE DUBLIN SEASON.

The Lord Lieutenant on March 13th inaugurated the Dublin season by a magnificent fancy ball at the Castle. The scene was one of great splendour. Dublin has been doing little else but preparing for it during the past month, and the result has been such as to surpass the most sanguine expectations as to its brilliancy and splendour. St. Patrick's hall was used as a ball-room, and it has probably never been the scene of such a magnificent *fete*. No fancy ball has been given at Dublin Castle since the time when Lord Cornwallis was Viceroy, and there were fea-[illegible] honour (the young Lord Athlumney, and Master Burke, son of the Ulster King-at-Arms.) Next came his Grace's family and guests, with the ladies of the household. The number of invitations was about eight hundred, and there were very few absentees.

DENOMINATIONAL STATISTICS.

The recent burial return, obtained on the motion of Mr. Morgan, states that in 7,369 parishes from which information was received, with an aggregate population of 20,503,870, the number of places of worship connected with the Established Church—that is, consecrated buildings—is 11,267. The number of unconsecrated places of worship—that is of Nonconformist buildings—is put down at 14,000, showing a majority on the side of the Dissenters of 2,733 places of worship.

A QUAKER FUNERAL IN A CHURCHYARD.

The *Manchester Examiner* says:—"Yesterday (Monday) the interment took place at St. Ann's church, Turton, near Bolton, of the remains of the late Mr. Thomasson, of Bolton, in the presence of a large concourse of spectators. The funeral service was conducted in accordance with the usage of the members of the Society of Friends, a dispensation having been granted by the Bishop of Manchester. Among those present were the Right Hon. John Bright, M.P., his sister (Mrs. Lucas), and Mrs. Clarke; Mr. J. K. Cross, M.P. for Bolton; Mr. F. Pennington, M.P. for Stockport; Mr. Jacob Bright, M.P. for Manchester; and Mr. Thomas Barnes, chairman of the Lancashire and Yorkshire railway and for sixteen years M.P. for Bolton. The Rev. S. A. Steinthal and Miss Becker were also present. On the lowering of the coffin into the vault Mr. Bright took the cord at the head and was much moved. Wreaths of choice exotics and ferns were thrown into the vault on the wreathed coffin of the deceased. The hearse was unplumed, but at either side and at the back wreaths of flowers and a violet ground were placed. Several flags of tradesmen and the flag at the New Town Hall were at half-mast, many of the shop windows in the town being partially closed."

ASSAULTING AN AGENT OF THE AGRICULTURAL LABOURERS' UNION.

At the Leicestershire Assizes, before Baron Huddleston, the cause of "John Taylor v. John Leadbeater and others" was heard. This was an action for assault committed by defendants (farmers) on plaintiff, a lecturer employed by the National Agricultural Labourers' Union. On the 1st of July plaintiff visited Twyford, near Melton Mowbray, to deliver an address, and on his arrival at the place he was told by Leadbeater that if he persisted in holding a meeting there would be broken heads. Plaintiff took up a position on a mound in a field by the side of the road, and had given out the second verse of a melody on the fine old English labourer, when he was struck in the mouth by rotten egg thrown by Leadbeater. He retaliated by hurling a large stone at Leadbeater, when he and the other defendants rushed at him, threw him over the hedge on to the road [illegible] him, when they were interfered with, and plaintiff was told if he would leave the village they would let him alone. Defendants' counsel did not deny the assault, but submitted that it arose through plaintiff's language, and the jury returned a verdict for plaintiff—damages, one farthing.

CHURCH RATES IN SCOTLAND.

Mr. M'Laren moved the second reading of his annual bill for the abolition of church rates in Scotland. The bill was opposed by Sir W. Cunninghame on the ground that whilst its avowed object was to benefit the landowners, it was supported by many persons because they believed it would be injurious to the Established Church. He contended that church rates were the property of the nation, that the large landowners did not object to them, and that therefore there was no real grievance. As to the Lord Advocate's proposal, all he would say of it was that it would be a fortunate thing if it relieved the small proprietors without a sacrifice of principle. Should the House accept his argument that the tax was a burden on the land, then they must admit that the bill under discussion would lead to the disendowment and disestablishment of the Scotch Church.

Other members having taken part in the debate the bill was thrown out by 210 to 155.

ITEMS.

Notice is given in the *Gazette* that her Majesty's birthday will be kept on Saturday, May 27th.

In consequence of slipping downstairs, Lord Henry Lennox, the First Commissioner of Works, has sustained injuries which will probably confine him to his room for some weeks.

The *Pall Mall Gazette* observes that "there is nothing more annoying to those engaged in a game of skill than to be interrupted by having their attention called by bystanders to some little mistake they have made in the course of the game. The expression of such annoyance should, however, be confined to reasonable limits."

Sentence of five years' penal servitude has been pronounced at the Exeter Assizes against a schoolmaster for excessively beating one of his pupils by striking him over the head with a green willow, so as to cause the boy to lose the sight of one of his eyes. The prisoner, on finding what mischief he had done, absconded from Egg Buckland, and was captured at Bolton.

Mr. Todd, of Bath, writes to the *Telegraph*. "The other day, passing through the little village of Evercreech, in Somersetshire, I saw hanging by the hind legs, in the passage of an inn, fully exposed to public gaze, a calf which was convulsively twitching its body and, raising its forelegs. There was no one in sight, and on going to it I found a wound in the throat, with the blood dropping out. The poor animal had been knifed and left to bleed to death. Surely anyone so torturing a calf can be punished, even if he thinks that that way of slaughtering is necessary to whiten the flesh. The sight was simply sickening."

Mr. Frank Buckland has received from Poland Brothers, of Billingsgate, a lobster of the following dimensions:—Total length from end of tail to tip of claws, 28½in.; claws, 16 in. long; horns, 13 in.; from end of tail to tip of beak, 17in. Eight to ten pounds would be about his weight. He was caught in the Orkneys, and he must have passed several years in some quiet abode under a rock.

The Registrar-General reports that the births registered in Scotland in the year 1875 were 123,693, or 35·4 per thousand of the estimated population; the deaths were 81,785, or 23·4 per thousand; and the marriages were 25,921, or 7·4 per thousand. All three ratios are above the average of the preceding ten years, but the excess is greatest in the deaths, their average being only 22·2 per thousand. The birth-rate is almost identical with that which the year's returns for England show, but the death-rate is 0·6 per thousand higher than that of England.

No fewer than 98,662 signatures have been appended to petitions presented to the House of Commons during the present session in favour of the Women's Disabilities Removal Bill.

CANADIAN.

Waterloo village has been incorporated as a town, with Mr. Moses Springer, M.P.P., as first Mayor.

[illegible]

[illegible] over last year. There is a general impression among all classes that there will be increased freights and better rates."

The *Drayton New Era* says:—"As an evidence of business done in Drayton, we may mention that on Monday last, Messrs. Noecker & Schnieder despatched twenty car loads of grain from here direct for Liverpool."

Mr. H. Hatch has sold Lot 1, con. 6, div. D, Guelph township, fifty acres, for Mr. James Pickard to Mr. Knight for $2,540. Mr. Joseph Grant has sold to Mr. John Laing the S. W. half of Lot 20, con. 10, Puslinch, 100 acres, for $2,300.

One of the remarkable things about the St. Lawrence river during this month and the latter part of the winter is that the water has been steadily rising, loosening the ice along the shore, until it is nearly two feet higher than it was last January.

Referring to the Sombra murder case, the Wallaceburg *Advocate* says:—"There is not a man of any respectability in these western counties but feels confident that Smith is the very man that shot Finlay, and it is the almost universal opinion that he should be hanged."

Whilst Mr. Duncan Carmichael, senior, was chopping in the woods near West Lorne, on Wednesday last, the tree he was felling lodged on another, and bounded back. It fell on Mr. Carmichael, and he was so seriously crushed that he died within two hours after.

Since the first of September last, Embro millers have shipped about 17,600 barrels of flour, oatmeal, split-peas, &c., and before the close of the season expect to handle another 12,040 or 13,000 barrels, making over 300 car-loads in all.

The financial condition of Stratford was discussed at the Council meeting the other night. Referring to it the *Times* says:—"The estimates for the year were read—receipts, $50,570—expenditure, $55,000. Considerable debate ensued, and it was explained that some clever financing will be required this year."

The following is the verdict of the jury empanelled to investigate Mrs. Yates' death at Brantford:—"That the said Eliza Ann Yates, on the 24th day of March, 1876, came to her death through inadvertently taking an overdose of medicine containing strychnia, in excess of the quantity prescribed by her physician, from which cause she died."

A friend writes us that at New Lowell, on the evening of Monday, March 27th, a concert was given, in connection with the Wesleyan Methodist church of Sunnidale. The musicians, both vocal and instrumental, acquitted themselves remarkably well, being encouraged by the presence of a large and appreciative audience. Some $50 odd was realized on the occasion.

The Gananoque *Reporter* says that Isaac Briggs, formerly a thriving merchant in that village, is now in actual want. After his failure he went to the United States, where [illegible] support. During the winter he had been sick and unable to work, hence the present destitution. A lady who knew him in better days took his case in hand, and succeeded in collecting $125 for his benefit.

Mr. Smith, Clerk of the Market, to-day (March 30th) made a large seizure of unseasonable veal, no less than twelve quarters being confiscated. There was another sleigh load of the stuff on the market, but the owner cleared out with it before Mr. Smith could get the meat. A lot of rotten fish was also ordered to be destroyed as being unfit for human food. We trust the proper authority will make an example of those who violate the law in this important matter.—*Kingston News.*

A strong feeling of dissatisfaction exists at the verdict in the case of the young man Graham, charged with manslaughter. It is felt that there has been a failure of justice somewhere. With this feeling we agree. After carefully going over the evidence, we cannot feel that the young man is entirely free from blame. We do not believe he had any intention of killing the child, but he was in a passion at the time, with a fearful weapon in his hand. In this condition he caused the child's death. The jury assumed a grave responsibility in acquitting him.—*London Herald.*

A few days ago Mr. N. Dodd went out into the woods west of St. Thomas on a hunting expedition, where he captured a female fox and seven young foxes. Having removed them to his residence he placed two of the young foxes under the care of a cat, taking away her kittens. The cat does not appear to know the difference, and treats them as her own offspring. The male fox comes to Mr. Dodd's house every night with food for the foxes in captivity, and last night stole one of Mr. Dodd's chickens to feed them with.—*St. Thomas Times.*

At a meeting of the Patrons of Husbandry, held at Columbus on the 24th instant, called for the purpose, a Grange was organized by Mr. J. G. Gould, and application made for a charter, etc., with the following officers, to be known as the Columbus Grange:—Samuel Beall, Master; T. M. Luke, Overseer; R. G. Ratcliff, Lecturer; W. D. Bowerman, Steward; Charles Holman, Assistant Steward; James Croxall, Chaplain; Alexander McKenzie, Treasurer; James Burns, Secretary; Charles Calder, G. K.; Miss Charlotte Groat, Ceres; Miss Holman, Pomona; Miss Nelly Beall, Flora; Miss A. Luke, Assistant Steward.

A number of farms in the township of Wilmot have changed hands lately. Jesse Kitchen has sold his farm of 200 acres to Arthur Barber for $13,000; Joseph Laird sold his farm of 150 acres to Andrew Miller for $10,000; Mr. Laird has bought Mr. Woodcock's farm, adjoining Haysville, for $6,000. Mr. Woodcock retains the old woollen factory and mill privilege. There is a splendid brick house on the farm which cost $3,000. F. D. Brown has sold his farm of 150 acres to John Anderson for $6,000; the buildings are poor on this farm, and the river Nith cuts it up a good deal. Nicholas Cook has sold his farm to Henry Dieble for about $5,000, and Jacob Hunsberger bought 100 acres of the old William Wallace farm for $3,500; the buildings and fences are poor on this lot, and the Nith runs through it.

Two enormous logs of white pine and one square stick of timber were drawn down from the upper country and shipped from Renfrew on Tuesday, for the Centennial Exhibition. The logs were twenty feet in length and girthed nine feet. The piece of timber measured seventy feet in length, and was beautifully hewed to 24 x 26 inches, making a total of over 200 feet of timber. The timber and logs are rare specimens. They were taken out on the limit of Messrs. Bronson & Weston, on the Pimassa creek, by the Coulter Bros., jobbers for Mr. John Poupore, M.P., who is sending them to the World's Fair by the request of the Government. They will no doubt do honour, as fine specimens of our Canadian forest giants, and give the world an idea of what we produce in the line of white pine.—*Arnprior Star.*

At a meeting of the Liberal-Conservative Association, held at Woburn on the 21st of March, called by Mr. James Humphrey, one of the Vice-Presidents of the Association, it was moved by Mr. Digby and seconded by Mr. James A. McCowen, and unanimously carried, that Mr. W. Helliwell be requested to act as Secretary. Moved by Mr. James Humphrey and seconded by Mr. John Bell, and carried unanimously, that Mr. James Chester be requested to act as Treasurer. The meeting was then addressed by the President, Mr. John Gibson, and Messrs. A. S. Wood and James Humphreys, and several others, with much enthusiasm; after which the following gentlemen enrolled themselves as members, paid their initiatory fees, and agreed to act as members of Committee:—James A. McCowen, Henry Humphrey, James Chester, Wm. Helliwell, Jonathan Beard, William Westney, Martin Willis, Thompson Jackson, David Shuter, John Law, Henry Danby, John Bell, John Lawder, jr., Stephen Keeler, Richardson Humphrey, Patrick Brown, Henry McElmurray, James Morgan, John Lawder, sen., John Humphrey, James Laurie, Thomas Jennings, James Duncan. The meeting then broke up, with the whole company singing God Save the Queen, and three hearty cheers for the Dominion, the Rt. Hon. Sir John Macdonald, and the President, Mr. John Gibson; and a resolution to meet at the Commercial Hotel, Highland Creek, on Wednesday, the 29th of March, 1876, which all persons who feel a desire to promote the welfare of the country are cordially invited to attend.

A GREAT DISASTER.

Bursting of a Dam.

Worcester, Mass., March 30.—At half past two this afternoon the reservoir dam gave way with a great crash. [illegible]

[illegible] like a top for a time, and then swamped in the water. Three or four other small dwelling houses were taken up and borne along until they were out of sight. The waters from the reservoir now reached Kettlebrack, then rushed down toward Jamesville, Leesville, Stanesville, and New Worcester. J. A. Smith & Co.'s mill dam gave way, and its waters were added to the already uncontrollable mass. The mill, a substantial brick structure, owned by Smith & Co., was next struck and crumbled to the ground. A short distance below was the Bottomly mill, worked by F. E. Smith. This was a wooden building, about fifty feet square, and was lifted to the top of the rushing mass. On it swept at a terrific rate, whirling and turning in all directions until it struck Ashworth & Jones' mill. This was the best mill on the stream, and one of the best in the country. It was a substantial brick structure, four storeys high, with an ell for a boiler house. The Bottomly mill, which had been carried along, struck this ell with terrific force, knocking it to pieces. The Bottomly was completely demolished by the shock, and nothing was seen which could be recognized as the mill standing but a moment before. The boiler house of Ashworth & Jones' mill was ruined in an instant, and one end of the main structure was swept away. The boiler was taken up and carried along as though it was a shingle in a mill stream.

Soon an explosion was heard above the roar of the flood, and the stream of water was thrown several feet above the surface of the current. Another explosion followed, and another, until five had occurred, and the boiler was blown to pieces. Mr. Jones also lost a large barn which was crushed like an eggshell. At Stoneville the dam gave way. The flood next passed over a small dam above Jamesville depot. Spectators who were standing near say the water was thirty feet high when it approached the track. With one tremendous crash the railway embankment gave way, opening a gap 400 or 500 feet long and twenty feet deep. The coal sheds were carried away. At Jamesville a section of the stream forced its way into the line of road and rushed down the track, carrying devastation before it. It lifted rails and ties from the road bed and turned them topsy turvey for more than a mile. On it rushed headlong, and at last, just before reaching the stone arch bridge at Curtis' Pond it bored a hole down into the roadbed and made a gap about eighty feet long and forty-five or fifty feet deep. The water then found its way into Curtis' Pond. The devastation at this point will be as costly as any along the entire route. The flood reached [illegible] about two hours after the dam broke, and struck the satinet mill owned by Albert Curtis with terrific force. The mill gave way and crumbled into ruins, and the dam was carried away. Three hours after the effect was felt at New Worcester. The course of the stream from the reservoir through the other villages is nine miles, showing that the water advanced at the rate of three miles an hour; the first mile, however, was made in three minutes.

A few minutes past nine o'clock [illegible] way, falling into the stream, and soon after the Arcade building toppled over, and was left standing on one end. The double arch bridge on the Boston and Albany railway gave way, and a section of the embankment, 70 feet long and 20 feet deep with it. An outlet was made and the danger at New Worcester was averted. After the second break in the Boston and Albany railway, the mill of the Wicks manufacturing company at South Worcester was destroyed. The water then spread out over a series of meadows, and in the south part of the city there was a gradual inundation. The water is rapidly subsiding, no further damage being feared.

Thoughtless Temptation.

The correspondent of a contemporary writes on the subject of the thoughtlessness with which masters and mistresses put temptations to dishonesty in the way of young and untried servants. In easily accessible places they leave jewellery, money, and articles of small bulk, but of great value in proportion to their size; and then they wonder if sometimes the temptation proves too strong for their servants and theft is committed.

Of course perfect honesty of character would prevent the servant from taking what is not his or her own. But this perfect honesty, when it exists, is the result not of instinct, but of long and careful education—an education such as frequently does not fall to the lot of those who take the place of servants. Far be it from us to accuse all servants of dishonesty; there are among the best of them as few who are dishonest as there are "kleptomaniacs" in higher ranks of life, and as many who can be trusted most implicitly. But then circumstances and precept have given them the necessary training in complete honesty; and for such persons as these stray pieces of money, and carelessly-left jewellery, would have no attractions.

There are, however, it is to be confessed, among young and untrained servants many whose mental position is that of uneducated children. The appropriation of something which they much desire, and which they can easily take without incurring detection, seems to be not so very wrong after all. So the risk is run for the first time; the second time the struggle made is less difficult; and the process goes on till the habit of stealing is formed, and may become so established as to be unconquerable without severe punishment—perhaps not even with that. Now, if we observe a child in whom an appreciation of the right of property is not clearly defined, we take pains not only to give him definite precepts, but to remove out of his way any occasion of stumbling in the way of usual temptation. So with unbred servants—only that in their case it is the indirect training upon which we must rely. We must not cause them to be led into temptation, and it is our distinct duty to consider what may be a temptation, and not to leave that thing in the way, whatever it may be. We have known the honesty of a young servant proof against the sight of easily-counted sums of money, but yielding when a small sum could be abstracted without being apparently missed from a considerable heap of coins. So, again, we have known an elder servant with whom everything was safe but brandy. Similar instances have undoubtedly occurred in the experience of everyone. When any weakness of will in the matter of resisting a particular temptation is known it is a cruelty and wrong of a most decided kind ever willingly to allow the temptation to be put before the person for whom it has been proved to be too strong. Money of all kinds ought never, under any circumstances, to be kept lying about, or be left in places which are very easy of access. It is so easy to get rid of, and so tempting to those who have but little of it, and who see it treated carelessly by others. We have heard of persons who would purposely leave money, so that the temptation to take it might be put before servants—a most reprehensible practice. If the servant yielded to the temptation, the mistress was by far the greater sinner of the two.

The circumstance which gave occasion for the correspondent's letter which has suggested the above remarks was the number of convictions of servants for theft, many of the thefts of plate, jewellery, &c., being committed while the masters were in the country. The obvious remedy is to put all such things into the safe keeping of some bank while the house is empty or comparatively so.

Dishonesty is, unfortunately, not likely soon to cease out of the land; but at least we can do our parts towards producing a better state of things, by never putting unnecessary temptation before anyone.—*Exchange.*

Little four-year old playing with her dolls: "Now, you lay there, my dear, and you lay there." Mother—"Why, Edie, you know that isn't right; you should say lie." "Oh, no, mamma; I'm playing they are chickens."

The Waterbury *American* announces that after next week no station agent who is not married will be employed on the Naugatuck road, from which should it be inferred that men are wanted who will be contented with their station?—*New Haven Journal.*

Years ago Sir William Meadows, of the British East India service, was detected in selling post traderships, or something of that kind, and tried to blow his brains out. The ball grazed his forehead, and when his friends rushed in he was bathing his head. He told them he had had an affair of honour with himself, and having stood the shot was perfectly satisfied.

AMERICAN NOTES.

The New Orleans *Times* says a man always feels put out when he is taken in.

[illegible]

In Spencer, Wis., there is a secret society in operation, of which the public will probably learn much soon, as the members are being tried for the murder of a candidate while undergoing initiation.

The ladies of the New York Sorosis held their annual dinner a few days ago. One of them toasted "the gentlemen," and hoped that the shadows of these inferior persons might never grow less.

Dr. Harlan, a Methodist preacher, has been expelled from his church for lying, vulgarity, and railing against his brethren. But that was out in Nebraska, where they haven't much "true inwardness."

A South Carolina boy's gun would not go off, and he heated an iron red, dropped it into the barrel, and ran. The gun fell with the muzzle toward him, and the hot iron was driven into his body, killing him.

Get a Brooklyn girl thoroughly mad and the fruits of a careful religious training are not conspicuous in the fury with which she unships her bustle and wrecks it over the head of her adversary.—*Brooklyn Argus.*

A Cincinnati veterinary surgeon has succeeded in a remarkable experiment. He has "fitted a wind-broken horse with a silver throat." An incision was made in the windpipe, a silver tube inserted, and now the animal breathes easily and seems to suffer no inconvenience.

A young lady dressed in much false hair was warbling at the piano, and when her mother summoned her to assist in some household duties, her rosy lips opened poutingly and snapped out, "O, do it yourself!" And then went on singing, "Kind words can never die."—*Norriston Herald.*

The London *Times* does not think we have as much need as European powers have of trained diplomats. "Our business calls for nothing more than general ability, clearness of head, and the qualities of a gentleman." The *Times* says nothing about general debility, but we have had too much of that already.—*Inter-Ocean.*

"Barnum's Great Centennial Academy of Object Teaching" is what it will be called this year. The Bridgeport *Standard* says:—"He promises a regular old-fashioned Hail Columbia Yankee Doodle Fourth of July celebration every day, and expects to be crowned with the title, 'Centennial Barnum.'"

An old soldier, who had for many years carried a bullet in his head, died recently in Washington, Maine. He had given permission to a physician to dissect his cranium, and thereby learn all that was of interest about the wound; but the people are so incensed because the physician cut off the head while the corpse was awaiting burial that they have sued him.

Bee culture is spreading rapidly in California. The Los Angeles *Herald* says that at the present rate, in four years there will be 1,000,000 stands of bees in that and the two adjoining counties, producing annually 100,000,000 pounds of honey, which are more valuable than the sugar and molasses crop of Louisiana, Texas, and Florida combined.

[illegible] step in New Orleans the other day, and addressed a policeman. "Yes, you mought's well arrest me, for I've shot stepdad. He cuffed me, and I took a sudden notion to kill the old fraud. Guess he's passed in 'fore this time." He was right. His stepfather was dead, by a wound inflicted by the stepson.

A business man of Detroit, who had some excrescences removed from his feet by a local corn doctor, about a year ago, called at his office again a few days ago to have a bunion treated. "You are not the person who was here a year ago?" said the patient. "No," responded the chiropodist, "that was my brother." "Is he still in the business?" inquired the caller. "Not exactly; he's not in this branch of the profession; he's now on the lung!"

Mrs. Jane Reynolds went last December to Waverly, N.Y., in response to a despatch, and there identified the body of a man who had committed suicide as that of her husband. She had the remains buried in the family vault at New Haven, Conn. She has been almost inconsolable ever since, and when her husband walked into her presence last week her shrieks drew a crowd which shared in her interest in her husband's story of a pleasure excursion to the northern part of the State. The reunited pair are now anxious to learn whose bones occupy the family vault.

The Vallejo (Cal.) *Chronicle* has an account of a young woman living in the vicinity who pursues the dangerous and difficult occupation of a vaquero with skill and success. She can be seen flying about the hills on horseback, leaping yawning chasms and ravines, and riding on the precipitous hillsides, where an ordinary pedestrian would think it impossible for a horse to get a foothold. She throws the lasso with precision, and can turn the stoutest bull over on his back with as much ease as a cook would flop a pancake.

A considerable portion of the British goods to be exhibited at the Philadelphia Exhibition have been delivered at the Exhibition buildings. Nearly all the contributions from Queensland, Egypt, Turkey, Norway, Sweden, and Japan have arrived. The preparations in the foreign sections are much in advance of those in the American sections. The Netherlands Commissioner have arrived at New York, also the entire Netherlands exhibit, weighing 1,200 tons. About five per cent. in weight of the whole of the articles to be exhibited are already deposited in the Exhibition buildings.

A scientific man who takes great interest in the subject of drainage, says:—"Two-thirds of the miasmatic troubles in New York proceed from the kitchen sinks of the city houses. The sink drains get clogged with grease, and foul odours arise to the upper stories of the houses, and little pale children inhale them at night, until they have scarcely strength enough in the morning to put on their shoes and stockings." For want of a better remedy, a common brick placed over the aperture will nearly obviate the trouble, and it should be the duty of every sensible head of a family to see that it is regularly placed there.—*N. Y. Sun.*

W. H. Jardine, of Point Moullere, Mich., is said to have educated five wild ducks to a very fine point. They go where and when they please, come at call, and accompany their teacher to the hunting grounds, either perched on the bow of the boat or swimming by its side. Arrived at the marshes, they act as decoys, splash and call until they attract flying ducks, which come down and are shot, while the tame ducks "stand up" in the water, shake their wings and scream with delight. The day's sport over, they either fly home or ride in the boat, as Mr. Jardine directs. He is a strictly truthful man, a church member, and a believer in the plenary inspiration of the Book of Revelations.—*N. Y. World.*

The practice in Florida is to burn over the grazing lands every spring, the tough "wire grass" of the woods becoming dry and useless to cattle at that season, and hindering the growth of fresh vegetation. Mrs. Harriet Beecher Stowe says that, for several weeks past, the horizon has been red every night with the fires. She adds: "Here and there a tall pine tree, with waving green top, presented a curious spectacle. A hollow place in the trunk had let in the fire to the resinous heart of the tree, and it was all aflame, like a fireplace, pouring out blaze and smoke. A tall, green tree, with its heart burning itself out, was a spectacle for Hawthorne's allegorical sights. How long may a man stand waving to air the foliage of a good profession, while the fires of hell are burning out his heart?" Rough on H. W. B.

A Gymnast Killed.—The Meadville (Penn.) *Republican* of the 19th ult. says:—"Joseph Varilla, a member of the Milton Jasper company of gymnasts, while performing a difficult feat at the Gymnasium, on Wednesday, fell and sustained such injuries as to cause his death, which occurred at the Crawford House, where he was stopping. Varilla was one of the most expert gymnasts in the country and known to the profession as an attaché of leading circuses. The fall which occasioned his death occurred while he was making an attempt at a feat, which few acrobats would dare attempt. The feat was to turn a double-back somersault from a step-ladder ten or twelve feet high alighting on the shoulders of an assistant some distance off. He accomplished the feat twice, or at least partially so, but at the third attempt he fell, sustaining spinal and severe internal injuries, resulting in paralysis and death as stated. Mr. Varilla was a young man who supported a widowed mother and brother and sister with his earnings, and was highly esteemed by those who knew him personally."

This is what a Mexican circus is like, according to the Denver (Col.) *News*:—"A Mexican circus has been giving performances at Pueblo for several days past. A curious thing is a Mexican circus. This one came up from Old Mexico. The managers have some sections of canvas, and with these and such pieces of lumber as they can pick up in the town in which they exhibit they construct a sort of tent or corral. The patrons of the show must provide their own seats. Each caballero may be seen going to the show with a senorita on one arm and a couple of chairs or stools on the other. The advance agent spurns the regular printer's ink, using instead a muslin poster, on which is painted an advertisement of the circus. The performance consists mainly of tumbling and horizontal bar exercises, though an educated pony and some trained dogs play a part in the programme. The performers are wonderful athletes, and their feats are well worth seeing."

A person calling himself "D. L. Smith, agent of La Rue's Minstrels," came to Port Hope a few days ago, and advertised a performance, but the company never put in an appearance, and it has since been learned that it is a swindle, composed of a few "dead-beats" content to travel round under the name of a good company, and get their drinks and an occasional meal out of what they are pleased to call their playing.

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