

years auld, and wee Girzy close upon seven. They are staying wi me at present, puir things!

THE MAJOR.—Will you be so good as to present the little ladies in my name with these two numbers of the "*Snow Drop*?"

THE LAIRD.—Many thanks Crabtree! But what's the *Snow Drop*, if a body may ask?

THE MAJOR.—An exceeding judicious magazine published in Montreal. I have met with few works of a similar description better calculated at once to amuse and instruct the rising generation.

THE LAIRD.—Has it got ony pictures? Girzy is terrible keen for pictures!

THE MAJOR.—It is profusely adorned with well executed wood cuts, illustrative of the text, and designed with considerable artistic skill. Altogether the *Snow Drop* is a credit to our Province in general, and Montreal in particular.

COLONIAL CHIT-CHAT.

PROVINCIAL PARLIAMENT.

On Thursday, the 19th ult., at two o'clock, His Excellency, the Governor General proceeded in state to the Council Chamber, in the Parliament Buildings. The members of the Legislative Council being assembled, His Excellency was pleased to command the attendance of the Legislative Assembly, and that House being present, the Hon. E. Caron, Speaker of the Legislative Council stated, on behalf of His Excellency, that he did not think, fit to declare the cause for which he had summoned the present Parliament, until a Speaker of the Legislative Assembly had been elected, according to law.

The gentlemen of the Assembly returned to their own house, when Mr. Hincks proposed that J. S. McDonald should be elected Speaker. Mr. Morin seconded the motion, which was carried on a division by a vote of 55 to 23.

On the following day, at three o'clock, His Excellency having taken his seat upon the throne, commanded the attendance of the Legislative Assembly. The Hon. J. S. McDonald informed His Excellency that the choice of the assembly had fallen on him to be the Speaker, and he craved for the member's customary privileges. After which His Excellency was pleased to deliver the following speech:—

Hon. Gentlemen of the Legislative Council, and Gentlemen of the Legislative of Assembly,

I have much pleasure in meeting you, in order that we may unite our endeavors to the promotion of the interests of the Province.

Notwithstanding the deep interest occasioned by the general election, the utmost tranquillity has, I am happy to inform you, prevailed throughout the Province, during the period which has elapsed since the close of the last Parliament.

Under these favorable circumstances, I am en-

abled again to congratulate Parliament on the prosperity of the Province. Securities continue to rise steadily in value, and the returns of the Census recently completed, furnish most satisfactory evidence of the advancement of the Colony, in wealth, and population. The estimated deficiency in the postal revenue has not been exceeded, although greatly extended accommodation has been offered to the public by the establishment of additional Post Offices, and increased Postal Service. There is reason to believe, that before long, the receipts of the Department will balance the expenditure.

Another heavy calamity has, however, I am greatly concerned to state, befallen the Province, in the destruction by fire of a large portion of the important city of Montreal. I am confident that you will bestow your best consideration on any measure that may be proposed to you, for the purpose of mitigating the effects.

The importance of placing the currency of British North America, on a uniform basis, and of introducing the decimal system, has been frequently recognized by Parliament. A measure will be submitted for your consideration, which will, I have reason to believe, promote the accomplishment of this object. I shall cause such documents to be placed before you as will put you fully in possession of the steps which I have taken during the recess, with the view of giving effect to the intentions of the Legislature, embodied in the Acts passed last session, for promoting the construction of Railways. I have endeavored in these proceedings to act, so far as circumstances have permitted, in concert with the Lieutenant Governors of the Lower Provinces, in connexion with these works, and with the subject of public improvements generally. The position of bonds issued on the credit of the Municipalities of Upper Canada, merits attention. The security afforded to holders under the Municipal Acts now in force in that part of the Province, is of a very ample and satisfactory description. It is not improbable, however, that your wisdom may devise measures which, without materially altering their character, may tend to enhance their value in the market.

The importance of establishing direct steam communication between Great Britain, and the Ports of Quebec and Montreal, has been repeatedly pressed on the Government, by persons interested in the commerce of the Province. The subject which has a material bearing on the prosperity of emigration, and the reduction of freights on the St. Lawrence has engaged my anxious attention during the recess, a plan for the attainment of the object in view, which will, I trust meet your approbation, will be submitted for your consideration. I shall lay before you a despatch which I have received from the Principal Secretary of State for the Colonies, communicating the views of the Imperial Government in reference to the Clergy reserves, and stating the grounds on which Her Majesty's Ministers refrained from introducing a measure into the Imperial Parliament, during the last session, for the repeal of the Imperial statute on this subject.

Gentlemen of the Legislative Assembly,

The condition of the revenue is satisfactory,