TO THE PUBLIC.

THE proprietors of *The Weekly Mail* beg to announce that on and after the first of January the annual subscription price will be one dollar and a half.

When the publication of *The Weekly Mail* was commenced the price was fixed at one dollar, with a view of introducing his paper to as wide a circle of readers, and in as brief a period of time, as possible. The objects sought were attained, for the incredible success of *The Weekly Mail*, followed with great rapidity, until now the number of its readers is counted at fifty thousand. At the same time the proprietors assumed the burden of gratuitously supplying the subscribers to the *Weekly Telegraph*, which was about ceasing to exist, with *The Mail* which should be at once a substitute for and an improvement upon the paper to which they had paid their subscription. The obligation thus assumed has been fully discharged, and every subscriber to the *Weekly Telegraph* has received *The Weekly Mail* up to the close of his subscription to the former.

A very large, handsome, and carefully prepared journal, such as *The Weekly Mail* is, could not be produced without incurring a heavy expenditure both in money and labour; in point of fact, the material used absorbs nearly the whole of the subscription price. The proprietors were prepared, however, to publish *The Weekly Mail* without pecuniary profit until their engagement with the subscribers to the *Telegraph* had been fully and faithfully performed. They feel that this has been done, and that the time has come when they should seek to place the paper upon a paying basis. The annual subscription will therefore be raised as above stated, one of the first consequences of which will be a marked improvement in the paper, which even at present rates has been proved to be the most popular weekly circulated in this country.

It is hoped and believed that the friends and patrons of the paper will recognize the propriety of our present course, and will redouble their exertions to extend the circulation and strengthen the influence of *The Weekly Mail*.

TO AGENTS.

The terms to Agents and Clubs will be raised *pro rata*, in conformity with the change in price as above announced.

The Weekly Mail.

TORONTO, FRIDAY, MARCH 13, 1874.

NOTICE.

Subscribers are reminded that the red-covered address-labels on the paper sent to them, shows a figure which indicates that the current number of the paper up to which their subscription has been paid, serving, in fact, as a date. The current weekly number bears the figure which should be referenced to the volume and number printed on the title page.

We are informed that a person representing himself as a travelling agent of this journal is collecting subscriptions to *The Weekly Mail* throughout the townships of West Gwillimbury and Tecumseth. We have no travelling agent. Numerous friends are interesting themselves in organizing clubs for us, and otherwise aiding in furthering the circulation of the *Weekly Mail*. Such are, of course, either well-known in the locality where they are canvassing or accredited by this office.

THE WEEKLY MAIL.

THE attention of our readers is directed to an advertisement on another page, from which will be seen the inducements held out to parties who may think of inclination to form Clubs for the circulation of *The Weekly Mail*; a paper specially suited for readers at a distance from Toronto, whether residing in the country parts of Canada, in Great Britain, the United States, or other foreign countries. For cheapness, in comparison with the wealth of information to be gleaned from it, *The Weekly Mail* is in advance of all competitors for popular favour, while the unparalleled success which has followed it since its first publication, is a gratifying evidence of the suitableness of its columns to the tastes of the reading public. We doubt, on account of the extraordinary rapidity with which *The Weekly Mail* obtained its immense circulation—as that of members of the Ontario Legislature, active Party, having at heart the furtherance of the cause of Union and Progress, at once became its warmest supporters in the country constituencies. Members of Parliament, as well as intending candidates for Parliamentary honours, have not been slow to see that a riding was best prepared for a convass in the interest of their Party, by the circulation of *The Weekly Mail* among the intelligent voters. Consequently, as a cheap and effective opening for the rapid circulation of their messages, unusual efforts have been made by influential local residents to promote the circulation of the paper in the neighbourhood of their own homes. The present crisis in the political history of Ontario would indicate the necessity for redoubled energy in the same direction.

LIBERAL-CONSERVATIVE ASSOCIATIONS.

We have received several letters from friends throughout Ontario, who are office-bearers in newly formed Liberal-Conservative Associations, or are desirous of forming Associations, asking for information, as to the way in which they should proceed, and for copies of the Constitution of the Toronto Association. We take this means of informing our friends who have written us, as well as others who may be in the same position, that they will best get the information they desire by addressing "The Secretary of the Liberal-Conservative Association, 35 York street, Toronto," who, we have no doubt, will be pleased to give them all the information they may require.

OUR STORY.

WE commence to-day printing a story just published in London, called "Ship ahoy." It possesses the double merit of being clearly and forcibly told and well constructed. It is called forth by the agitation, in which Mr. PLIMSOLL led the way, against the use of unseaworthy ships, and will be especially attractive to the large shipbuilding interest of Canada on that account.

"Ready-Money MORTIMOR," the last instalment of which we gave on Friday, has, as we expected, been much admired by our readers, and numerous expressions of disgustedness of its great villainy have reached us. It may be mentioned that the book, though published anonymously, is the work of two London Barristers, and became, immediately on its appearance, very popular in England. The public will welcome further productions of these clever writers.

THE ORANGE BILLS.

THE Ontario Government has had its triumphs, we do not deny it. Mr. SCOTT's presence in the Cabinet at the time had the effect of causing four of its members to vote against the Orange Incorporation Bills introduced last session. Unable to prevent the adoption by the House, Mr. SCOTT's influence was used to prevent, by an entirely unnecessary and highly improper reservation of the bills for the consent of the Governor-General, their becoming law. In the carrying out of this ruse he found the Attorney-General a ready instrument. Sir JOHN MACDONALD's "memorandum" in a very few words rate the conduct of the Ontario Government in its true light. It was within the competence of the Provincial Legislature to pass the bills, and having been passed by the Legislature they should have been assented to by the Lieutenant-Governor. Under his instructions the Governor-General is required to reserve such bills for the Minister's consent. This is deemed necessary for the protection of imperial interests. There were no Dominion interests involved in the Orange Bills; and if they were beyond the competence of the Legislature, or in some other defined position objectionable, it would have been in the power of the Governor-General in Council to have disallowed them. The British North America Act provides for disallowance under such circumstances; but the Act was never intended to be used as a shield for the protection of a weak Local Government, or to justify shirking from Provincial responsibility. The Government of Ontario gained their point then, however. A year elapsed and the bills became waste paper. For that result they and they alone, must be held responsible.

It has now fallen to the lot of the same Government to enjoy a second triumph at the expense of the Orange Body. Mr. FRASER became Mr. SCOTT's successor in the Cabinet. Out of it, he was the most ardent supporter of the bills of last session. A member of it, he had to, at least, maintain an appearance of consistency. Hence the scheme of a grand Corporation Act was concocted in the fertile brain of the Provincial Secretary; and under the shadow of his sheltering wing received a fatal throw. The Orange Grand Lodges ought to have been the best judges of the means by which their interest could be most speedily obtain the advantages of legal incorporation for which they sought. They decided that the machinery of the Government bill was cumbrous and costly, and the results to be secured under it, indefinite and unstable. Many members of the House who supported the incorporation measures, preferred that the Government bill was of a kind which would enable societies of a questionable character to secure the benefits of incorporation, and they objected to the incorporation of the Grand Orange Lodges of Eastern and Western Ontario under a measure which, in their opinion, ought not to receive the assent of the House. Both they and the Grand societies have, however, been beaten. The Government marshalled their majority against the resolutions, bills, and incorporations, with their slaughtered innocents, killed by a majority of eleven.

We think this will be a lesson to Ontario. It evidences a hostility of creed which was fast dying out until the Grit Party saw opened to it a way to power by taking to embrace a religious denomination upon which in other days its most notable leaders had poured out the vials of their wrath and their scurrility. The injustice and injury thus done to thousands of loyal men in Ontario, will not fail to stir prejudice to the Roman Catholics—whose interests we would ourselves be so ready to maintain as a fellow-subject, if they were assailed—will not readily be forgotten, though we would fain hope that the efforts of the opponents of the bills to excite religious animosities will have but little effect.

PARTY MALIGNITY.

WHEN the Grit Party and with the *Globe* all things are held legitimate, so that a friend is served or a foe injured. From one of its articles Friday, taken in connection with the way it has reported the proceedings of the Public Accounts Committee, we fancy the *Globe* holds Mr. LAUDER as a foe to the Party it supports, for nothing can be in worse style than the attempt it makes to injure the gentleman's public and private character, if not now are the real facts of the case! Briefly these, Mr. LAUDER is a member of the Committee of Public Accounts, an active member, and one to whom in no small degree is due the credit for having unearthed, by the prosecution of that Committee, a system of political corruption without parallel in our political history. The members of Opposition on the Committee, succeeded in establishing by the sworn evidence of the Government employes, that the Government had been unprincipledly used the public money of this Province in furthering the elections of their friends for the Commons. They have shown, on the same evidence, that in a number of cases, the money known to be a most plant and useful tool of the Grit Party, is even now receiving the stamp of Government, that the people's money without a tender, with out a contract, and at exorbitant prices. This, of course, is bad for the *Globe* finds it unbearable, and so, forsooth, must have its fling at Mr. LAUDER, which it carries out in a style too common to that journal: and this, too, without a word of comment on the character of the man, whose name, the simple-minded FARNWELL, or the honest farmer MCKELLAR. We can assure the *Globe* that its breaking off on a false scent will not serve its purpose. The country has its eye firmly fixed on the Government of Ontario, and no abuse of private character will divert its attention from the fact, that the people are fully aware that their THANKS are largely due to Mr. LAUDER for the untiring vigilance he has shown in the Committee-room, and that while they will also properly estimate how hard the *Globe* and its Party must be pushed when in the throes of dissolution, alter and pervert the report of what took place in the Committee of Public Accounts, in order that it may be used as the private character of a political opponent.

THE APPROACHING END OF A SHAM GOVERNMENT.

"How many times Ministers must have wished that they had taken the field at first as only moderately honest people!" These words are quoted by *Blackwood* in a number in review of the career of the GLADSTONE Government, which set out in the race under such favourable and promising circumstances, and closed it at the end of six years in disgrace and defeat. They are as applicable now to the Government of Ontario—if we may be permitted to compare a small with a great thing—as they were a month ago to the late Reform Imperial Administration. The Grits, as a party composed of so-called Liberals all the world over to set up for themselves a self-righteousness of a superior type. In Ontario it has been and continues, the effective assault upon the Party governing the country on the simple ground that it represents a corruption. The Opposition necessarily implied a corresponding commendable virtue in those who so strongly criticise for the sake of Party, recall the close-pairing of the SANDFIELD MACDONALD Government, the rigid economy which that Government, in the department of the public service, and then look upon the vaulted extravagance and indulgence in profligate jobbery which marked the career of "Reform" administration in the Province to be convinced of the utter worthlessness of the estimate which self-styled Liberals make both of themselves and of their opponents. Glancing over the political history of the past few years, from the commencement of the Pacific scandal and the railway policy of their predecessors, which they had so lonely denounced, down to the shameful revelations of the Public Accounts Committee, we shall see how truly Old Mage's words apply to the Ontario Government—"How happy the Ministers must have wished that they "had taken the field at first as only moderately honest people!"

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