Huron Signal.

GODERICH, [illegible]

Respected Sir:

There is a great [illegible] modern intelligence [illegible] monuments of [illegible] chanical spirits of [illegible] days. We regard with awe the stupendous pyramids, the remnants of magnificent temples, commemorative pillars and the gigantic Sphynx of Egypt, whilst venerating the human skill which overcame the giant difficulties in their construction—which would parade the present age with all its [illegible]. The Chinese with their Great Wall, extending for 1500 miles along the Mediterranean, all nations that bear the stamp of civilization, was attained, in those days which lead us to doubt that the world is progressing as rapidly as is said. In Chinese architecture, are extant of a high state of civilization about the time of Confucius, when many arts, which the artists of the present have but imperfectly imitated, were brought to an astonishing degree of perfection, and knowing these facts the idea has been ventured that periods of steady advance in civilization are followed by periods of retrogression. And during these latter periods the records of previous ages are to a great extent obliterated. Who can, with positiveness, therefore, deny that human intelligence may be so advanced as to become a mechanical rather than a mental product. By application of certain mechanical rules is it not possible that a superior degree of human intelligence might be universally attained? And assuming this is it not probable that the period of retrogression should be hastened through the agency, effected by certain national enactments, which would prevent those rules for mental improvement being properly applied, thus producing imperfect subjects to inherit their errors of knowledge to the succeeding generation? Or it may be that humanity obtains such ascendancy over Nature as to become puffed up with vanity, flippant and gradually unfitted to comprehend the vastness of the knowledge which has been acquired, thus gratifying a "royal road" to ignorance.

So far as the present and Goderich are concerned, a glance at the relics of that monument of human ingenuity, human energies and wealth, which once bore the name of the Grand Trunk Railway, but it now dead and partially buried underneath Vernon's last snow drift, leads me to dread that the "period of retrogression" has begun. No longer do steel bars bearing composite daily at the railway depot—to laugh at death, and to take chances in the "game of life" at the rate of so much per mile. It was a much indulged in game, in its time, and the chances of being shot safely from one end of the Province to the other in perfect safety, or of "shuffling off this mortal coil" in a collision, explosion or beneath the Juggernaut, car wheels, were paid for at the same house that day the bill was presented, and no house in the country failed to pay at the sight of a machine, a match handling car or a locomotive. Now we hear the thunder, the whistle, the roar or the shriek of engine whistles; no no longer hustle out of bed in the darkness of night to catch the early morning train; and no more shall we see our son of happiness disappear when our mother-in-law telegraphs in at our own expense that she will be up "by the next train, and be sure and meet me." All gone. The two lines of iron rails still look solemn and important, but an air of melancholy has crept over their surroundings, and the almost tenantless buildings scowl, the somethorns stand mute and lifeless as the inhabitants of the castle of the Sleeping Beauty, and all apparently awaiting the coming of the prince whose kiss will bring life and activity. To view these relics, our contemporary Macaulay is heightened to a certainty, to accept his prophesy about the New Zealander of the future and "a ruin of London. Who in the past few months, as he regarded the progress of Canada through the short term of its existence, would have thought that he should soon stand over the remains of the Grand Trunk Railway and cry: "Alas, alas!" But, "we live to learn."

Frederick Van Norman.

This would-be famous young man who in the last local Parliamentary election succeeded so far in ingratiating himself in the favor of the Conservative party as to be accepted as their candidate in East Huron, has caused himself again to appear before the public in a new role. He was always a cheeky adventurer, but the following from the Lindsay *Post* proves him possessed of more sagacity than he usually got credit for:

Quite a sensation has been caused in town for some days past by the sudden departure of Mr. Frederick Van Norman, an "Barrister," who has for the past year moved and had his being in the highest circles of society, and whose prominence in whatever position he found himself renders his latest exploits worthy of more than passing mention. He came here in the summer of 1875 in the glory of good clothes and with the prestige of having been beaten in a Parliamentary contest in a western constituency. He entered at once with peculiar vigor into the local elections then going on but proved an unsafe advocate, displaying the possession of too much bad whiskey or indifferent brain, political acquaintances were only too glad to keep him down. He hung out his "sign" as attorney; and in time manifested his normal defects by imposing upon the two unsuspecting editors of the town papers by loading them to state that he had "passed" as "barrister" with creditable honors, the fact being that he had been "plucked." Whatever opinion people formed of his mental capacity and his paying power, few thought that he would plan and execute deliberate swindling. He did not succeed in getting very deeply into any of our merchants, though there are quite a number of small accounts against him, and a number of people are interested in his whereabouts. He was married; and having a piano—unpaid for, we believe—succeeded in mortgaging it for $200 to Mr. A. Purdom, but the piano was spirited away to be "tendered" a day or two before the flight, and of course is in either Mr. Van's possession or the proceeds in his pocket. A resident of Haliburton named Fitzpatrick gave him an account of $150 to collect, and the money was paid to him at once, but he neglected the trifling formality of handing it over to his unfortunate client. In order to do the thing up in first class slender style Mr. Van was "converted" and related his "experience" at a revival meeting two nights before he "absconded." The unblushing audacity of the fellow was in fact only surpassed by his mental incapacity to make the most of it; and our people were led to the conclusion that he was not a rogue because there was not evidently every thing there in his upper story. He had a good address and a certain fluency, and was without equable of putting quite a figure wherever he went. It is said this is the third time he has tried the game in Canada; and naturally it will go to the list, for our exchanges in the province will not fail to take note of such a dangerous character and give him a good advertising. He is reported to have departed to that refuge of rascals—Chicago; but even there the story of his deeds will follow him, and he will have a much more sensational introduction to the society of the "Phoenix City" than he had to that of Lindsay.

FLOORED!

Good Dunkin Rejected.

THE ELECTIONS RESULT IN THE DEFEAT OF NEARLY ALL THE TEMPERANCE CANDIDATES.

GREAT DISAPPOINTMENT AND EQUAL JUBILATION.

THE MORAL.

THE COUNTY IS NOT IN FAVOR OF THE DUNKIN ACT.

But our duty is to "Agitate agitate."

LARGEST VOTE EVER POLLED.

PARTIAL RETURNS.

Monday proved an important day to the public, and being a holiday the issues which were to be decided stirred up such a feeling of interest as drew all the ratepayers, able to come out, to the polls. So active had been the Dunkin and Anti-Dunkin parties in the canvass for their particular candidates, that the issue turned upon that question, and the result can but be accepted as the feeling of the people upon the Dunkin Act. As far as the returns received are concerned, this verdict seems to be generally concurred in, and convinces that any further effort at present to secure the passage of the Dunkin Act would be of little use. The vote has not been so satisfactory, however, as if the underlying question had been separated from municipal and personal issues. We had anticipated a far different result in the contest of Monday, and expected that the advocacy of the Dunkin Act would be well endorsed, but we are now assured that it is needless to cast at present for a direct expression of opinion from the people upon the question. While advising that the efforts which were being made to secure a vote this winter be ceased, we recognize the necessity for continued and earnest agitation, and the encouragement which has been vouchsafed to the cause by the large vote polled in favor of temperance candidates ought to sustain more vigorous efforts. The temperance candidates worked well, although having many annoying drawbacks to contend with, such as false reports and the contemptible action of some professing temperance advocates in working against their own party. Many of the promises and pledges which were given have been broken, for the assurances which were given to Messrs. Campbell and Small satisfied their friends that they would be elected.—Considering that worthy men were in the field, and that in several instances less capable men have been elected because of their Anti-Dunkin proclivities, the temperance party may congratulate itself that it worked well.

The vote polled was very large everywhere. In town very few votes were unrecorded, and those who failed to vote were sick, absent or dead. In Colborne only about twenty were unpolled, and the most of these it was impossible to get.—The following are the returns so far as we could obtain them, the most of them being furnished through the medium of the Montreal Telegraph Company:—

FIRST DEPUTY REEVE.

		Campbell.	Johnston.
St. David's Ward,	S.D.1	29	64
	S.D.2	40	59
St. Patrick's Ward,	S.D.3	56	45
	S.D.4	46	29
St. George's Ward,	S.D.5	36	52
St. Andrew's Ward,	S.D.6	45	54
	S.D.7	28	30
		280	333

Majority for Johnston, 53

SECOND DEPUTY REEVE.

		Small.	Martin
St. David's Ward	S. D. 1	40	52
	S. D. 2	41	59
St. Patrick's Ward	S.D. 3	45	56
	S.D. 4	45	28
St. George's Ward	S.D. 5	34	43
St. Andrew's Ward	S.D. 6	49	49
	S.D. 7	30	30
		284	317

Majority for Martin, 33.

COUNCILLORS.

ST. DAVID'S WARD.

	S.D.1.	S.D.2.	Total.
H. T. Bunberry*	48	80	120
T. N. Dancy*	65	89	154
T. Johnston*	69	82	151
R. McLean	28	40	68
Geo. McMahon	14	5	19
W. R. Robertson	30	36	66
R. Thompson	54	36	90

ST. PATRICK'S WARD.

	S.D. 3.	S.D. 4.	Total.
Wm. Mitchell*	74	50	124
M. McQuarrie	3	4	7
R. W. McKenzie*	64	44	108
G. McKee	3	6	9
J. Pasmore	55	49	104
S. Sloan*	88	57	145

Messrs. McQuarrie and McKee retired from the contest before the polls opened.

ST. GEORGE'S WARD.

	S. D. 5.
J. Buchanan	41
J. C. Dellor	37
M. Hutchison*	62
D. C. McKay*	64
H. H. Smith	58
W. M. Savage*	64

ST. ANDREW'S WARD.

	S. D. 6	S. D. 7	Total.
E. Bingham*	69	38	107
J. Gordon	56	40	96
J. R. Miller	40	27	67
W. Seymour*	78	40	118
A. Watson*	98	50	148

* Those marked with an asterix are the new councillors.

STANLEY.

Reeve, Thos. Simpson; Deputy Reeve, Geo. Castles; Councillors, John McKinley, James Aikenhead and James Douglas.

SEAFORTH.

Mayor, Dr. Coleman; Reeve, M. Y. McLean; Councillors, Jas. I. Carter, A. Stewart, A. Strong (South Ward), Wm. Campbell, Andrew Malcolm, Wm. M. Gray, Graham Williamson (North Ward), Wm. Gemmle, L. Murphy, Chas. Wilson (East Ward).

BAYFIELD.

Reeve, John Keys; Councillors, John Bacon, F. Cleaves, A. Rutledge and Jas. Burns.

ASHFIELD.

Reeve, Robt. Webster; Deputy Reeve, Robert Hamilton.

WEST WAWANOSH.

Reeve, Chas. Girvin; Deputy Reeve, E. Gault.

COLBORNE.

For Reeve, Wm. Young, 261; John Kernahan, 148; Deputy Reeve, Richd. Jewell, 206; John Buchanan, 185; Councillors, Patrick Carrol, 278; W. J. Harris, 239; David Fisher, 190; John Varcoe, 116; Jas. Symington, 115. This makes Mr. Young's 25th year in the council.

GODERICH TOWNSHIP.

For Reeve, Gabriel Elliott. It is also reported that Mr. Ford is elected.

HAY.

Old council re-elected, as follows: Reeve, Robt. Brown; Deputy Reeve, John B. Geigher; Councillors, John C. Kalbfleisch, Wm. Wilson, Daniel McCall.

McKILLOP.

Old council re-elected. Reeve, Thos. E. Hays.

BULLETT.

Reeve, John McMillan; Deputy Reeve, John Mason; Councillors, John Lanham, Joseph Howson, and John Britton.

MORRIS.

Reeve, W. J. Johnston; Deputy Reeve, John Miller; Councillors, Clegg, D. Vanalstone and Thos. Laidlaw. Mr. Johnston, the new Reeve, is the temperance candidate.

BLYTH.

Mr. P. Kelly is again elected by a small majority.

EAST WAWANOSH.

Reeve, Thos. Taylor; Deputy Reeve, Robt. Curry; Councillors, Robt. Riley, Thos. Brown and R. Bentoul.

ULINTON.

Mayor, S. Malcolmson; Reeve, Jos. Chidley. The result was strongly against the temperance ticket.

FOLLOWING in the wake of great calamities generally a number of accidents resulting from the effect of a knowledge of such disasters upon the public mind. The burning of the Brooklyn theatre and the dreadful results attending the event thrilled the world in the relation, and the impress upon the public mind has been such as, no doubt, to prompt with a feeling of uneasiness and fear of pending danger the minds of many who find themselves in the midst of large gatherings of people. Some such dread must have prompted the recent panic in the Boston theatre, when the cry of "Fire" caused a stampede of a large audience, fortunately without serious results; or driven to terror the large audience in the Montreal theatre when fire caught in the stage scenery; or filled with dread the minds of those who last week were present in the Catholic cathedral in Philadelphia, when a portion of the floor gave away. It takes considerable time to quell these fears, and while they exist alarms of the kind noted will occur.

Legal Notes.

THE JAIL.—Their are thirteen prisoners in jail at present.

THEFT.—Andrew Dark has been committed to jail to stand his trial for having stolen a shovel from Mr. L. Wells and a number of articles from different parties.

ANOTHER CHARGE.—Jonathan Barber, who has just put in a term of imprisonment for stealing fish, has been again committed on a charge of stealing an axe from Mr. John Knox and some port from Mr. Robt. McLean.

IN HIS BOOTS.—Last week, whilst the jail officials were examining a prisoner before putting him into his cell, three pipes, some tobacco and a file were found concealed in his boots.

LEVANTEN.—Norman and Neil McIvor, against whom warrants of arrest for assault were issued, left the town suddenly to escape the rigors of the law. Norman McLeod who was implicated in the same case, was fined $1 and costs, on Thursday, for interfering with a constable.

INDECENT ASSAULT.—Richard Howard, of Seaforth, was tried in that place, on Thursday last, on a charge of breaking into a house and indecently assaulting a woman therein, and committed to jail to stand his trial. Policeman Delmidge brought prisoner to the jail on Friday.

BAYFIELD.

THE MEETING.—A very successful tea meeting took place in St. Andrew's Presbyterian church, on Friday evening. The attendance was very large, the church being filled to its utmost capacity. Addresses were delivered by Revs. T. Goldsmith and J. Steveright and Mr. J. Jamieson, Divinity student. Rev. Mr. Jamieson, of Bayfield, occupied the chair. Excellent music was furnished by the Messrs Carmichal, Miss Foster and Mr. Scott, of Seaforth. The proceeds, about $60, we believe are to be applied to the purchase of an organ.

DUNGANNON.

TEMPERANCE MATTERS.—Temperance is well kept before the eyes of our citizens by temperance lectures, two being delivered the past week in our village. The Rev. Mr. Bland delivered an address on temperance in the Orange Hall, on Tuesday, 26th ult. I for one can say that I was considerably astonished at the tone of the Rev. gentleman's speech, it being decidedly anti-temperate. The speaker taking as he considered a temperate view of the subject supported the moderate drinker as the truly temperate man, and considered the drunkard the same as a lunatic, condemned the Dunkin Bill as arbitrary and interfering with the freedom of man. It is greatly to be deprecated that a Christian minister should take such a view of a subject which has for its object the removal of a temptation which leads many to ruin. The moderate drinker who is considered by all temperance organizations as the most dangerous in his example the speaker strongly upheld. If men are made lunatics, there must be a cause for their lunacy, the best way you can lessen lunacy is by removing the cause. The Rev. gentleman would consider it very arbitrary to confine a whole community to a lunatic asylum because there were a few lunatics among them. Of course this is very correct, but a wrong construction to put on the Dunkin Act. In enforcing the Dunkin Act we do not compromise men's freedom only by taking away their power to fall into a temptation by removing it.

—On the following evening, Wednesday, Mr. Odlum the agent of the U. T. A., delivered a temperance address in the Methodist church. Mr. Odlum is well posted on the subject of prohibition and the Dunkin Bill, and has given it his closest attention, meeting all the arguments against the Dunkin Bill by stronger ones very eloquently put. A good collection and subscription was taken up and vote of thanks was tendered to the speaker.

Recently two Jews were elected to the Italian Senate. Ten years ago Jews enjoyed no political rights in Italy.

Local News.

ABOUT TOWN.

SUNDAY SCHOOL CONCERT.—The concert given by the Sunday School children of North St. Methodist church in that building, on Thursday evening last, was rather poorly attended. This fact is to be regretted, for the efforts which were put forth by the children and their tutors deserved a jammed house. Notwithstanding the array of vacant seats, the order of the little folks was not one whit dampened, but they entered into the affair with great spirit. The chorus comprised some 200 voices, and the children were seated on raised seats placed before the pulpit and extending from the floor to the gallery, in which, about the organ, a number were seated. Mr. E. F. Moore, superintendent of the school, occupied the chair. After prayer, an opening address was nicely given by Master Willie Pasmore, followed by a solo "Happy Songs" by Miss Glemine Henderson. The choir sang a large number of choruses and anthems in a pleasing manner, their childish voices, blending with the tones of the organ and the effective music of the cornet played by Mr. Benj. Armstrong, making the most pleasing strains. The individual singers acquitted themselves creditably, and were as follows: Misses Stotts and Whitely, duett; Miss Mary Whitely, solo, "Let the lower lights be burning," rendered with great taste; Miss Lizzy Papst, solo, "What a friend we have in Jesus;" Miss Isabella Swift, solo, "Gates Ajar;" Miss Kate Bates, solo, "Ring the bells of Heaven;" Miss Lizzie Thomson, solo, "Whatsoever will;" Miss Wilkinson, solo, "Pass me not;" Miss Ellie Bates, a very little girl, solo; "Little crowns in Heaven. Master Trueman sang very nicely the solo "When He Cometh," and Mr. F. R. Mann acquitted himself well in the rendering of "Only an Armor Bearer." Recitations were given by Master Fred Croft, John Mann, John Robertson, and Misses Mary Dart. Masters Geo. Thompson and W. Mann gave an instructive temperance dialogue, entitled "Carling's ale. Throughout the evening the children showed that they had been carefully trained and their performance reflected great credit upon the ability and efforts of their leader and instructor Major Thomson. All present were greatly pleased with the concert, and in the vote of thanks which were adopted the wish was expressed that the concert should be repeated. Miss Barnes presided at the organ with her usual skill. The meeting was brought to a close at a reasonable hour for the little folks, by Rev. W. C. Henderson pronouncing the benediction.

FOUNDRY CO'S ENTERTAINMENT.—The second annual literary and social entertainment under the auspices of the Goderich Foundry and Manufacturing Company took place in the Oddfellows Hall on Friday evening last. The attendance was very large, and included amongst the employees of the Company and their lady companions, a number of the stockholders of the company and several invited guests. Every convenience was furnished for retouching the toilet, the Oddfellows' private rooms being thrown open for the purpose. The supper, which was the first feature on the programme was spread out in the body of the hall and announced about 9 o'clock. The three large tables extending the full width of the hall fairly groaned under the weight of good things, around which the large company quickly congregated in excellent humour and with good appetites. Mr. J. Donagh pronounced the benediction, when all set to with a will, and ample justice was done to the spread. The repast was excellent; the bill of fare comprehended roast meat and fowl, ham, cold tongue, vegetables, relishes, pastries, cakes, fruits, nuts, tea, coffee, &c., all set out to the best advantage, and reflecting great credit upon the ability of the caterer, Mr. J. Robinson. To add to the success of this part of the affair, Mr. Robinson was assisted by an active and attentive staff of waiters, who permitted none to want for anything. The supper having been dispensed with, the tables were removed, chairs placed on the floor and the second part of the programme was introduced by the rendering of a waltz by Duckham's quadrille band. Mr. Robt. Runciman was called to the chair, and made a few remarks expressive of his pleasure at meeting so many once more in this social capacity, concluding with the seasonable wish that all present might experience a happy and prosperous new year. Short addresses followed from Messrs A. Kirkpatrick, G. N. Davis, Jas. F. Dickson (*Signal*) and F. W. Johnson. Mr. C. A. Humber gave an amusing reading on dancing. Votes of thanks were tendered to the chairman, and to Mr. Robinson for the excellent supper he had prepared, the latter gentleman responding in a neat speech. This concluded the second part of the programme and the room was then cleared for dancing, which was kept up with great spirit until well on in the morning, to the inspiring strains of Duckham's quadrille band. Refreshments were provided at a late hour for the sustenance of the dancers, and everything went merry as a marriage bell. The affair proved a great success, reflecting the greatest credit upon those who had the management thereof. This annual gathering will be looked forward to after this with high anticipations, and reasonably so for the two already held have been productive of great pleasure to those who attended.

INSTALLATION.—The installation of the newly elected officers of Goderich Lodge, No. 33, A. F. & A. M., took place on Wednesday evening last at 5 o'clock. The attendance of the brethren was quite large, a goodly number being present from Colborne. Past Master H. H. Smith, installed the officers who are as follows:

W. M.—Bro. Jos. Beck.
S. W.—Bro. H. Cooke.
J. W.—Bro. Wm. Hood.
Chaplain—Bro. S. Yates.
Treasurer—Bro. S. Sloan.
Secretary—Bro. Wm. Dickson.
S. D.—Bro. Jas. MacKay.
J. D.—Bro. Jas. Robinson.
I. G.—Bro. E. Downing.
Master of Ceremonies—Bro. H. Bolton.
Stewards—Bro. C. Straubel and A. Chrystal.
Tyler—Bro. M. McPhail.

Quite a number of the brethren and their wives and friends assembled later in the evening to enjoy the supper. The banquet room was nicely decorated with flags and evergreens, and when the well-spread and temptingly provided tables were surrounded by the company, the sight was indeed pleasing. The spread was first class, the viands being numerous and well prepared in Mr. J. Robinson's best style. We might here mention that this gentleman is establishing for himself an enviable reputation as a public caterer. The refreshments being disposed of the company repaired to the lodge room, where Bro. Beck, W. M., took the chair, being assisted on the right by Bro. H. H. Smith, P. M., and on the left by Bro. J. A. S. Varcoe, P. M. A few hours were here spent in a pleasant manner, the programme being opened by Mr. H. H. Smith singing "All together once again," Misses Barnes (who presided at the organ during the evening) and Mellish and Mr. J. T. Duncan assisting in the chorus. Music was furnished by the above named, as well as by Mr. and Mrs. Duckham, the former playing some beautiful solos on the concertina. The latter sang "Tyrol's lovely Dell" and "Lennie Darling" with great taste and feeling, evincing the possession of a well trained and well-controlled voice. Her singing was loudly and deservidly applauded. Rev. Bro. Nott, of St. Thomas, and formerly of Colborne, delivered a short and appropriate address, as did also the chairman and Bro. Yates. Mr. H. I. Strang favored the company by reading a lecture on phrenology and the "Leap year wooing," Bro. J. T. Garrow also giving "I am O'Shanter" and Shelly's excellent poem the "Skylark." At the conclusion votes of thanks were tendered to the chairman, the readers and singers and those who contributed to the evening's pleasures, and the proceedings closed with the singings of the national anthem.

PERSONAL.—Mr. J. T. Duncan, veterinary surgeon, has been elected second Vice-President of the Ontario Veterinary Association.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.—A letter signed "A Synth" has been received, but not being accompanied by the writer's name, we without publishing.

HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY.—The annual meeting of the Goderich Horticultural Society will take place in the Council Clerk's office, on Tuesday evening, the 9th January. A full attendance is requested.

OUR readers will welcome the advertisement of the popular firm of Messrs. D. M. Ferry & Co., of Detroit, Mich. Their Seed Annual for 1877 far surpasses their previous numbers. This firm, one of the largest in the Seed business, needs no indorsement from us.

SCHOOL TRUSTEES.—The nomination and election of school trustees takes place on Wednesday next, Jan. 10th. Messrs. Swanson, Ferguson, Buchanan anr Crabbe are the retiring members. They are all good men for the position and will very probably be returned without opposition.

SUSANNAH EVANS.—Remember the lectures in the North St. Methodist Church on Thursday and Friday evenings next. The subject for the first evening will be "Prohibitory enactments," and for the second evening, "The drinking customs of society." Admission 25 cents.

DECEIVED.—On Friday one of our merchants received a telegram from a friend near Toronto, advising him to "look out for some hard cases who were on their way to Goderich by the evening train." The gentleman at once advised the limbs of the law of the news, and as bad news travels fast many households prepared themselves for a vigorous defence against burglars or incendiaries. The subsequent discovery that the merchant's friend had merely telegraphed the approach of some relatives who were about making a holiday visit to the place, did not altogether allay the excitement.

SCHOOL EXAMINATION.—The annual examination of S. S. N. 6, Usborne, took place on Wednesday, Dec. 20th.—The junior classes were examined in the morning by the teachers of the school, assisted by Rev. D. Williams, Bible Christian Minister. At the close of the morning session the little folks were allowed to depart from the school-room to enjoy themselves for the remainder of the day. After all had partaken of dinner, the senior department, which has been under the careful tuition of Mr. Halls, was called to order. Mr. Williams came back again in the afternoon and rendered valuable service. There was also a large number of visitors present, some taking part in the proceedings, while others manifested by their presence that they were interested in the education of the youth. The children were examined in the principal branches as full as time would permit, and the readiness and accuracy with which they answered and solved complicated problems was truly gratifying. They gave clear evidence that it was not a smattering of this, that, and the other which they possessed, but it was a good knowledge of the great fundamental rules and how to make an application of the same. They showed unmistakable signs that they had been trained to think and to reason and to make inquiries into the "why" and the "wherefore," which is so necessary in acquiring a good education. A very interesting part of the exercises was the reading of several compositions, which were well written, plainly showing that this particular has not been neglected. The order maintained throughout was praiseworthy.—Mr. Halls, who has been a faithful teacher of this school for the past 14 years is about to leave the section, a fact much lamented by nearly all, and the pupils wishing to show their appreciation of his services and the respect they had towards him, made him the recipient of a very handsome silver cup, accompanied by a short address. Mr. Halls made a very suitable reply and all seemed deeply affected. At the close of the proceedings several prizes were distributed, among which was a special one for some drawings, which were beautifully executed on the board a boy thirteen years of age. Short addresses were then given by several gentlemen present, all expressing their entire satisfaction with the progress of the school, and at the same time regretting the great loss which will be sustained by the removal of the teacher. As the shades of evening had already approached, school was dismissed, and all retired to their homes much pleased and profited by what they had seen and heard.—*Expositor.*

Mr. Halls enters upon his duties as assistant teacher of the Goderich High School on Monday next, and we doubt not he will prove an appreciable acquisition as well to the town as to the school.

TEMPERANCE LECTURE.—Mr. Edward Odlum delivered a lecture in the temperance hall on Friday evening, on the Dunkin Act, the license law and prohibition, which he contended formed the chief question all over the country now. He contended that the question could only be settled in one of three ways: by unlimited sale of liquor; by a limited sale or by no sale at all. The first of these is admitted by all to be disastrous and needs no consideration. With regard to the second, we have had limited sale for some time and can judge how it works; the license system is wrong, it is a monopoly and unfair in every way.—Let a person go into the liquor business and he must pay a license fee, why not compel the grocer and dry goods merchant to do likewise? It is unjust again to keep a license from a man who is willing to pay for one. If the business is a just and right one why withold a license? But the public does not consider it a just and right business and hence uses discretion in granting a license, and now only a very limited number can be given to certain approved men, who are prepared to provide certain accommodation; and gradually the laws are advancing step by step and placing check after check upon the traffic. But the present system does not accomplish its object, for it does not lessen the evils of the traffic although this was the intention when the law was passed. A great outcry is made for fear of a decrease in the revenue in case the Dunkin Act is passed, but the Father Mathew crusade in Ireland proved that the saving in the lessening of poverty and crime, &c., under prohibition, was greater than the revenue derived from liquor when its sale was permitted. Some people argue that even if we had a prohibitory law there would be drinking, and hence it would be better to license the traffic and obtain a revenue; but this is no argument, for other laws are broken and so would a prohibitory law. It is no argument to say that the Dunkin Act has been a failure in the past, because occasional cases are found of breaches; if a law is a failure merely because it is broken then every law we have almost can be laid down as failures and even the commandments of God are, according to that argument, a failure, for they are broken daily. We do not ask the government to make men sober by act of parliament, but we do ask them to protect the lives and property of men, women and children by prohibiting the sale of this most ruinous of all poisons—liquor. If it is right for the government to license a few to sell liquor and therefrom to derive a revenue, why not license all who desire a license and thereby derive a large revenue? Liquor men say that there would be more liquor consumed under the Dunkin Act than there is at present; why then do they oppose the passage of the act? If the act were passed it would at least close the bar rooms and this of itself would be a great blessing; it would take away that worst of temptations from the young, and prove a saving to the poor drunkard who cannot afford to purchase more than, perhaps at most a pint at a time, and who generally takes his glass at the bar. Mr. J. Wilkinson occupied the chair and Capt. Gibson opened and closed the meeting by prayer.

THE SHIPMENTS.—The shipments of cured fish last week were as follows: W. Fox, 1,800 lbs; H. Drouse, 6,000 lbs.

HARBOR MATTERS.—Owing to the strike on the railway, business at the mill is greatly hampered by the accumulation of stock, which cannot be shipped. The shipments up to Friday week: 3,215 pcs of timber, 276 logs shorts, 3,000 logs, 2,000 staves and 6,7 bags of bran.

SHIPMENTS.—Among the general shipments from the station last week were: 1000 the junk by Mr. Reeve; 18 cars of lumber by Samuel Cameron & Co; 10 bbls. spirits by Robt. Shindley, and a quantity of mill picks and school seat castings by the Foundry Co.

THE CARNIVAL.—The fancy dress carnival at the Arena Skating Rink on Thursday evening last proved a great success, the attendance of spectators being very large. Some of the costumes were very pretty, and the characters represented included the harlequin, the Indian chief and Pocahontas, the patriot, the Jester, Robin Hood, historical characters and others. The ice was in good condition, and the skating of Mrs. Fairbairn, Farmer Conlinson and T. W. Savage, of Goderich, and of Misses Knox and Day and two young gentlemen, of Clinton, was much admired. The band furnished excellent music during the evening. Another carnival will take place shortly.

THE STRIKE.—The efforts of the Grand Trunk officials to reduce the wages of engineers and firemen resulted in a general strike along the entire line from Detroit to Portland and from Goderich to Buffalo, on Friday night at 8.37. Since then not an engine has moved on the line, and the trains stand at the stations they happened to be at at the hour mentioned. As consequence business throughout the country has been greatly disturbed, as one may readily conceive on considering the magnitude of the institution and the dependence of the country's trade thereon. The strike so far has been conducted quietly although it is said one engineer was assaulted at Stratford for running his engine after the hour appointed for the stoppage. As the engineer's association is very strong, it seems likely that the Grand Trunk Co. will have to listen to their demands. While a settlement is pending the suffering in business throughout the country will be great, and the expense to the company in supporting those travellers who are left by the way will be very heavy. An amusing incident occurred near Toronto through this difficulty, a party of about 200 persons on their way by special train to a grand ball being left about three miles out of the city, and being compelled to walk back again. In order to overcome the present difficulties, Mr. A. M. Pollock is running two stages to Clinton to catch the trains to London on the L. H. & B. Ry. and bring back the mails. The first stage leaves promptly at 7. a. m., and the second at 10 a. m. The return coaches arrive here at about 3 and 10 p. m.

BRUSSELS.

The following resolution was adopted at the last meeting of Council:—"That all clergymen assessed on the roll for less than $2,000 receive a debenture for amount of their taxes."

Mr. Aaron Dulmage, station master, was on Christmas day presented by some of the citizens with a gold chain and locket and meerschaum pipe.

J. F. Wilson has started a skating rink in the Agricultural Hall.

WINGHAM.

INDUCTION.—The Rev. Hector McQuarrie was inducted over the Wingham Presbyterian congregation on the 28th Dec. Rev. John Ferguson, of Brussels presided and addressed the people. Rev. Mr. McLean of Blyth, preached, and the Rev. Mr. Young, of Manchester, addressed the pastor. In the evening, a teameeting was held, presided over by Rev. John Ferguson. Addresses were delivered by the ministers of the Methodist churches and by members of the congregation. Proceeds about $120.

GODERICH TOWNSHIP.

TEA MEETING.—The annual tea meeting in the Union Presbyterian church was held on Thursday evening last, and was largely attended, the proceeds amounting to about $40. Addresses were delivered by Revs. J. Steveright and F. McCuaig and Messrs. Jamison and Donald, Divinity students. Mr. H. I. Strang also gave several readings. Music was furnished by the choir of Knox church, Goderich.

TEA MEETING.—A tea meeting will be held in Leeburn Presbyterian church on Thursday evening of this week proceeds to be applied to clearing off the debt on the church.

SPECIAL SERVICES.—The special prayer meetings in Smith's Hill church will be continued this week.

SEAFORTH.

AN ODDITY.—A few days ago, Mr. David Yule, of Seaforth, captured a beautiful yellow butterfly, which was fluttering about in his house. This is not the season of butterflys.

SUSANNAH EVANS.—This lady lectured here last night, and will discourse this evening on "The Drinking customs of Society."

GENEROUS.—Wm. Ahlbern, who some time ago lost his arm by an accident at the flax mill has since been in very poor health and unable to assist his widowed mother. As a consequence the family has been in poor circumstances, and this fact coming to the knowledge of Mrs. Wm. McKay, of Clinton, that lady set to work and raised the sum of $62.40 which was presented to the lad on Christmas.

CLINTON.

ACCIDENT.—A son of Mr. Wm. Coats, a few days ago, was badly scalded by having a dipper of hot water accidentally spilled on his face.

SALE.—Knox's hotel was sold by auction, a few days ago, for $3,100, and the stable and lot on which it stands for $1,050.

ROMANTIC.—Some time ago a carpenter was injured by falling from a building. He was taken to a house near by, where he was attended through his illness by a female domestic, a stranger to him. Her attention warmed his heart, he fell in love, and after his recovery, proposed, was accepted, and they now are man and wife.

NILE.

SCHOOL REPORT.—The pupils of Nile Public School who obtained the highest number of marks in a written examination for the month of Decr. are as follows:—

V. Form—marks possible 700. A. P. Sheppard 669; H. Pentland 636; E. Bailie, at the High School examination. IV. Form—marks possible 400. J. Pentland 338. J. Sheppard 328; M. Bailie 312. III. Form—marks possible 350; (sen) D. Nivins 306; J. McCracken 299; R. Bailie 298; (sen) G. Pentland 281; W. Knights 275; C. Jones 256. II. Form—marks possible 275; H. Dodd 256; D. McIlwain 251; C. Bailie 240.—II. Book—marks possible 175; (sen) T. Hogan 164; J. McKnight 150, E. McCraken 149; (jun) M. McIlwain 146; E. McIlwain 144; K. Drew 140. I Book—(sen) I. D. Moore, 2 F. Hardy, 3 J. Glen. I. Book—(jun) I. R. Black, 2 E. Girvin, 3 R. Moore.

LOCAL JOTTINGS.

—Crediton is going to have a foundry.

—Freight and passenger traffic is unusually brisk at the Exeter station.

—A hennery on a large scale is now being started at Crediton.

—Mr. P. Kelly's house, Blyth, caught fire on nomination day, but was only slightly damaged.

—Two weddings and four fights were the sum of the public celebration of Christmas day in Blyth.

—Adam Scott, lot 15, con. 4, Morris, last week sold a spring pig, which when dressed weighed 265 lbs.

—Bluevale has been stirred to its very centre over a series of curling matches lately.

—A very successful meeting in favor of the Dunkin Act was held in Wroxeter, on the 21st ult.

—Farm, lot 21, Bayfield con., Stanley, was sold on 23rd ult., to Mr. J. Turner, for $4,525. It contains 102 acres.

—Clinton's latest celebrity is a gentleman who has boarded for ten years at a hotel.

—Miss E. Sanders, assistant teacher in Binevale school was recently presented with a gold chain and locket by her pupils.

—On Wednesday, 27th ult., Mr. John Rae, of Hullett, killed a thirteen hog which weighed 514 lbs., and for which he received $7.20 per cwt.

—Mr. E. Fotherman, of Clinton, has purchased the farm of Mr. J. Crozier, 12th con. McKillop, consisting of 50 acres, for the sum of $2,500.

—The members of St. Jude's church (Episcopal), Brussels, presented their Mrs. G. Gibson, and presented her with a purse containing $12 as a mark of their appreciation of services rendered.

—A few days ago an illicit still was seized in Hullett township, in the premises of Mr. David Dunlop. The spirits was found and destroyed, a barrel of whiskey were broached and a quantity of wash, which had been found in the cellar.

—The thermometer a few days ago was teasing low, and the dogs small fry took advantage of him planning him to sleep, and not crushing him. His strange absence caused alarm, a search was made, when he was found five hours after almost frozen in this unpleasant position.

Communications.

A Correction.

To the Editor of the Signal.

SIR,—My attention has been called to a communication in your last issue, purporting to come from Benmiller, in which I am credited with the following statements: "Mr. Pierce next gave a short address in which he called on all present to put into practice the theories introduced by Mr. Carswell, and urged on the electors present to manifest their temperance principles at the municipal election by voting for a Reeve and Deputy Reeve who would support the Dunkin Act." Now sir, I admit that those words or words to that effect were used but they WERE NOT used by me but by Major Thomson, who at the close of Mr. Carswell's remarks moved a vote of thanks to Mr. Carswell and to the parties who had secured his services and it supporting that vote he used words to the following effect. "He hoped the electors would remember the advice given. Personally he had nothing against Mr. Young and could shake hands with him he met with him, but as he had voted against the submission of the Act he hoped that the next Reeve who would be a Reeve [illegible] My own remarks were [illegible] moving the vote of thanks [illegible] Thomson, &c., and a few words at the close [illegible] the petition in the Lord's prayer "Thy kingdom come" in which