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WEEKLY EDITION.

W. T. COX, Editor and Proprietor.] The Greatest Possible Good to the Greatest Possible Number."

$1.50 PER ANN. IN ADVANCE] GODERICH, C. W., THURSDAY, DEC. 31, 1863. [VOL. XVI.—NO. 48

Huron Signal.

GODERICH, C. W., DEC. 25, 1863.

MINISTERIAL DINNER AT OTTAWA.

The Dinner to the Ministry in Ottawa, on Tuesday evening last, was a great success, 250 tickets having been sold at $5 each. There were six Ministers of the Crown present, together with all the notables of the Ottawa section, and the cordial reception of Hon. J. S. McDonald and his colleagues in the future capital is an evidence that their services to the country have been duly appreciated.—The Mayor of Ottawa, who presided, bore testimony to the great success of the Premier in the face of a world of difficulties, and the ability and courage with which he had borne out his pledges to the country. From the tone of the speeches delivered the Ottawa people will learn that the Ministry are determined to carry out the Queen's decision in its integrity, notwithstanding the frantic efforts of some of the Quebec and Montreal men who would at this late day gladly throw away the vast sum already spent on the Parliamentary Buildings for purposes of self-aggrandizement, and hence, we may reasonably look for a heartier support to the McDonald-Dorion Cabinet from the Ottawa members at the ensuing session. From the *Globe's* telegraphic report of the Dinner, we extract the Premier's speech:

Hon. John Sandfield Macdonald alluded to the presence of men to whom he had formerly been opposed, Messrs. Fellowes and Petrie, once members for Russell. Two of the most important questions which occupied the attention of the country were the connection with the mother country and the preparations for defence. All others had fallen into insignificance before these. He was glad to hear the tribute paid by Col. Turner to the efforts of the Government to provide a defensive force. These efforts, he thought, had given satisfaction to the country. Let the meeting look at the legacies of the late Government: the Ottawa difficulty, the Postal Subsidy, the Intercolonial road, the Ocean Mail Service, and the Bank of Upper Canada. Large companies had possession of the public highways, upon which they had never paid anything, though they lived upon the revenues. These things the Government had, to a great extent, remedied. The credit of the country was at this day better than that of any nation in Europe. We had negotiated a loan in our own country, and established the fact that we need not go to London whenever we wanted money. The Government deserved credit for the arrongement they had made. They deserved the greater credit when it was considered that they had borrowed money here at six per cent., when in England it was worth eight per cent. He referred to the postal subsidy. Their predecessors ought to have settled it, as they were empowered by law to do. They had instead appointed arbitrators. One arbitrator was in favor of $300 a-mile, and another of $200. The difference would probably have been compromised at $250 per mile. The present Gov. settled it at $100—effecting a great saving. In regard to the ocean mail service, they got the same work done for £54,000, which Before was done for £104,000. The Cartier-Macdonald Government said they intended to do this. Well, so much the better for them, but how much better for those who had done it! The Militia Bill passed when first he (Mr. Macdonald) came into power, was never intended to be sufficient. It was confessedly a hurried measure. By the Bill of last session volunteers were placed in a better position than ever before. (Cheers.) When Lord Monck came there were only 5,000 men enrolled; now there were 30,000. It was said the Ministry had not paid sufficient attention to the expenditure. Though it had been made as judiciously as possible, it had extended from $800,000 to $600,000. No sooner had the Government got thus far than they were assailed for not paying the volunteers. No engagement of the sort had been entered into by the Ministry, though they would enter into it at next meeting of Parliament. (Cheers.) They promised only the clothing, and that promise they kept. Their predecessors had proposed $700,000 for the erection of the capital buildings. At that time they had Mr. Killaly's report, saying $450,000 were required for the departmental buildings alone, leaving $250,000 for the House. The present Government applied to Parliament for $500,000 for these latter, and even after that, they were accused of an intention to cheat Ottawa.—True, they thought it necessary to issue a commission so that they might know what they were doing, but though the instructions for that commission were minute, yet amid all the hurry of a change of Government, it was issued in 21 days after they had taken office, so anxious were they there should be no delay. (Cheers.) After the commission reported, lest a change of contractors should cause further delay they kept the old ones.—The buildings had rapidly progressed, and he was glad to see signs that the exertions of the Ministry were appreciated in Ottawa. The Commissioner of Crown Lands had saved $70,000 to [illegible],000 in his department. He (Mr. Macdonald) had saved, by discharging useless clerks, $12,000 per annum. They had not turned out any one for partizan reasons. Some inefficient persons had been turned out, and their places re-filled. But where men were turned out because they were not wanted, their places had not been re-filled in a single instance. He denied that he was inimical to emigration. He entered at some length into an argument to prove that the eras of emigration to Canada had been when public works on a large scale were being carried on. When that was not the case, emigrants did not do well. He referred to the year 1827, when the Rideau Canal was in progress, and to the time when the Welland Canal, the St. Lawrence Canals, and the Grand Trunk Road were being built. The Province had gained in population as the means of employment had been available. It would be a matter of policy, in view of any public works which might be contemplated, to have regard to this fact. He referred in this connection to the Chicago deputation and the want of improved means of communication between the west and the seaboard. Whether the want would be supplied by enlarging the St. Lawrence Canal, making the Georgian Bay Canal, or by perfecting the navigation in the valley of the Ottawa, it was certain that we could not stand still. Whenever it came, there would be a flow of emigration to Canada. These were matters which the Government had in view, and which would be submitted to the wisdom of Parliament at the proper time. He closed amid great cheers by declaring that the Government would be here in 1865, and that nothing short of an earthquake would prevent this Government, if in power, from pushing on the Ottawa buildings to completion.

THE HEENAN-KING ENCOUNTER.

The following telegram, which we received this morning, indicates that what has been termed "the great International Prize Fight" terminated in favor of King. We give the announcement as we would any other piece of news in which a large number of our readers are interested, although, for our own part, we think it is high time such beastly exhibitions were put down. This morning's papers will probably contain the shocking details.

New York, Dec. 24.

The *Asia* reached at Halifax yesterday. She brings news of the great Prize Fight between King and Heenan. There was but little science displayed on either side in the contest. Heenan is reported to have had his shoulder broke.

25 rounds were fought in 35 minutes, when King was declared victor. The fight was favorable to Heenan, but King showed the more endurance

CENTRAL SCHOOL EXAMINATION.

The regular half-yearly Examination of this Institution took place yesterday.—Heretofore it has been customary to extend the examinations over two or three days, but on this occasion the Principal determined to try the experiment of pushing them through in one day. In some respects we consider the change a good one, as it enables visitors to see at a glance the progress being made in the several departments, and to judge by actual comparison of the efficiency of the several teachers.

The Primary Department, taught by Misses Augusta Morgan, Christina Cameron and Clara Morgan, was examined in the forenoon, and we are pleased to see that the little folk are making good progress.

The Middle Department, which was examined in the afternoon, is taught by Miss Mary Walker, J. A. Street and James Thompson. Miss Walker is a very superior teacher, and has evidently instilled into her pupils not only the rudiments of knowledge peculiar to her department, but an earnest sprightliness which will be of great advantage to them as they advance towards "graduation." We did not observe a single flaw in her method of instruction. The recitations and singing were particularly charming. Mr. Street's class is evidently making fair progress, but we were sorry to notice that there was not as much attention paid by his scholars to the subject in hand as could have been desired. It may be, however, that he is blessed with a larger proportion of the "unruly members" of the school, in which case the teacher would not be blamable. Mr. Thompson seems to be an excellent teacher, and has unquestionably taken great pains with his pupils. The scholars under his charge display much cleverness in answering questions relating to the branches taught. In writing, especially, they are making rapid progress. The specimens of penmanship were written by the scholars on oval cards, arranged against the wall of the room in a very beautiful manner, and surmounted by the inspiring motto, "Exelsior." Considering the general progress of the department, the writing must be considered superior. Little danger that the graduates of this school will ever have to sign their names "William Jones" or "Jane Brown," his, or her, *mark*.

The Senior Department, under the direct care of the Principal, H. D. Cameron Esq., is composed of scholars who have passed through the other departments, and who here receive the finishing touches to the only education many of them ever receive. The exercises were highly interesting. In Mathematics, Grammar, Reading, Geography, English and Canadian History, &c., &c., the questions propounded by the able and zealous principal were answered with eagerness and almost invariable correctness. Our space will not admit of details, and we will conclude our brief report by saying that after an impartial observation we have no hesitation in asserting that the Central School of Goderich, for general efficiency and solid usefulness, cannot be surpassed by any similar institution in Upper Canada.

The attendance of visitors was tolerably good, especially on the part of the ladies, but it is still to be regretted that parents generally seem to be unaware of the importance of witnessing the public examination of their children.

Missionary Meeting.—The Missionary Meeting in connection with the Wesleyan Church of this town was held on Monday evening last, Mr. W. T. Cox in the chair. The attendance, owing to a combination of unfavorable circumstances, was not as large as on former occasions. Interesting addresses were delivered by Revds. Messrs. Brownell, Cleaver, Hunter and Hurlburt.

I have a brother—a wee, little chap—who sometimes says things we think very odd.—One day, as he was disposing of some bread and milk, he turned around to his mother, and said, "Oh mother, I'm *full of glory!* There was a sunbeam on my spoon, and I swallowed it!"

THE MAYORALTY.

The canvass for Mr. Detlor goes bravely on, and his friends are confident they will win the day. Although the Watson men affect a certain amount of buoyancy of spirits, they have now to admit that their anticipated majority will be far less than was counted upon two weeks ago.—This fact speaks well for the Detlor side of the question.

The Weather during the past few days has been delightful, the clear, bracing atmosphere, and the firm, frost bound footing beneath rendering living an absolute luxury. With a little more snow on the ground we should have nothing left to ask for in this respect. As it is, our streets are giving signs of activity, which must be very pleasing to shop-keepers.

☞ We have received, through Mr. Moorhouse, in advance of publication, *Harper* for January. Send in your names, now is the time to subscribe.

The Scientific American.—The tenth volume, new series, of that admirable periodical, the *Scientific American*, published by Munro & Co., 37 Park Row, New York, commences on the 1st of January next. All mechanics, inventors, manufacturers, engineers, agriculturists, chemists and all classes of readers, should patronize this very ably conducted journal. Indeed, we cannot too strongly commend it to the public, because the substantial and reliable information it imparts is worth a hundred times more than the annual subscription price.

The Atlantic Monthly.—The thirteenth volume of this able American periodical begins the January number. Steadily increasing in popularity, since its present Publishers, Messrs. Ticknor & Fields, assumed its management, it has a circulation greater than that ever reached by any American magazine of its class, and numbers among its regular contributors such names as Longfellow, Hawthorne, Emerson, Bryant, Agassiz, Holmes, Lowell, Harriet Beecher Stowe, Whittier, and others scarcely less eminent. Its stereotyped volumes are a valuable repository of original papers on a very great variety of subjects, and its monthly issues have a genuine freshness and fitness to the hour. If it is a good test, as it certainly is, of the standing of a magazine that it attracts and introduces new writers, the names of Higginson, of Gail Hamilton, and of the lamented Winthrop are evidence enough of what the Atlantic has thus accomplished.

For the Signal.

TEMPERANCE.

A. M. Moffat, Esq., B. A., is at present lecturing in the different towns and villages of Huron, Perth, Bruce and Oxford, with good success. Mr. M. is a Son of Temperance, as well as a Good Templar, of long standing, and has lately accepted the office of Agent for the "United Canada Temperance Alliance," whose object is the total suppression of the traffic in intoxicating liquors by legal enactment. As Mr. Moffat is able to speak for himself and explain the principles of the Alliance, we will not make further remarks upon the subject, but simply say that we have listened to him with great attention, and consider him an eloquent, logical and convincing speaker. The following is an introduction to one of Mr. Moffat's lectures, which will give your readers some idea of the gentleman's oratory:—"The charms of eloquence, the graces of poetry and the pen of the novelist have all been employed to portray the beauties and enforce the claims of Total Abstinance, yet it is a subject of abiding interest and will continue to be a theme of matchless importance when the exciting topics of the day shall have burst like other bubbles on the stream of Time.

"The great temperance movement did not originate in the chafings of the social machinery—it was not called into existence to subserve some political purpose—it is one of the great, good and noble reforms, of the number of those that adorn and beautify the present age. The object we have in view is one that must commend itself to the approbation of every true, generous and noble mind. We seek to banish at once and forever from our fair land that foul monster that has caused

"So many mothers to bewail their sons,
And many wives to weep their husbands slain."

Day by day we listen to the tale of woe caused by the fiery demon—homes once radiant with the sunshine of joy and happiness, have become the abodes of misery, wretchedness and woe—the love of strong drink stifling every noble aspiration, quenching every generous impulse and poisoning the fountains of pure affection in the heart, till it becomes the monster passion. Heedless of the counsels, warnings and entreaties of friends and companions, he rushes forward, as if urged by some magic power, to the vortex of temporal and eternal ruin. This is no fancy sketch, no idle dream of the imagination;—thousands thus yearly go down to a drunkard's grave, with a drunkard's shame branded on their memory. But so long as the drinking customs of society are upheld and perpetuated by the fashionable and refined; so long as the iniquitous traffic in intoxicating liquor is protected by the laws of our land, so long will intemperance (the fountain of all iniquity) send forth its polluting stream to corrupt the morals, blight the intellects, and damn the souls of our fellow men. Every heart that beats in sympathy with human freedom, that glows with the social flame of patriotism, or is warmed by the genial influences of Christianity, should espouse the noble cause of Temperance, and buckling on the moral armor, adopt for their motto, *Down with the Monster!*

Strike till the last armed foe expires;
Strike for your altars and your fires;
Strike for the green graves of your sires,
God and your native land."

—Com.

THE AMERICAN WAR.

New York, Dec. 22.—The Government has decided that the safety of American vessels leaving this port requires that no person shall be allowed to leave this port as a passenger or otherwise on any American vessel without first receiving a passport from the Marshall of this district. It is understood that a gunboat has been stationed at Sandy Hook by Admiral Spaulding, to intercept every vessel leaving the port by that outlet; and another vessel at Throgg's neck to examine vessels leaving the port by way of the Sound, with instructions to detain such as are without passes. Any one can obtain the proper passports who can have his loyalty properly vouched for. The adoption of this stringent measure will probably prevent a repetition of the Chesapeake affair.

Philadelphia, Dec. 22.—By a gentleman who left Richmond on the 20th inst., we have the following later information. He says:—"The Richmond papers of the 20th inst., have despatches from Bristol, Tennessee, stating that Gen. Longstreet with his army was advancing, and no doubt a severe battle would be fought in the vicinity of Jonesboro, Tennessee. Reinforcement from Col. Jackson's and Gen. Sam. Jones' command were going to Longstreet.

"A despatch from Meridian, Mississippi, reports that Joe Johnson's army is in motion, and it is conjectured that it intends to reinforce Gen. Hardee.

"It is rumored in Richmond that General Lee will be sent to command the north-west Georgia as the only hope of retrieving the heavy disasters to the Confederates in that quarter. His army in Virginia has gone into winter quarters, except one division which is under General Early.

"Some uneasiness and excitement existed in the vicinity of Staunton, Virginia, in consequence of the approach of General Averill's command. Imboden and Rhodes were endeavoring to oppose General Averill's further advance, and a fight is expected in that quarter.

"In the Confederate Congress the substitute bill has been abrogated, and all persons who have put substitutes in the army are compelled to go themselves. H. S. Foote still continues his severe denunciation of the Confederate Administration.

"It is rumoured also that commissioners will be sent to the Court of Madrid in behalf of the Confederate Government.

"Flour in Richmond is $200 a barrel, and is still rising. The people are generally despondent, and the winter will be awful for the poor.

"It is stated in the *Enquirer* that President Davis will soon make a decided change in the whole Government, and also in the army."

Fort Monroe, Dec. 22.

The United States steamer Maratanza has arrived from Wilmington. She reports that the light ship was blown away from Frying Pan shoals on the 18th inst.

Fairfax Court House, Dec. 22.

General Michael Corcoran died at half past eight this evening from injuries received from a fall from his horse.

Washington, Dec 22.

Information received to-night from the army of the Potomac, says that there are no indications of a retrograde movement towards Washington, as has been reported, nor is it believed that the enemy in their present condition are able to give us much annoyance. Their cavalry, diminished considerably on our front, are not equal to the task of making any formidable raid on our base of supplies owing to the impoverished condition of their horses. The insufficiency of shoes and blankets, if the statements of deserters can be relied upon, renders is equally improbable that General Lee's infantry can be called from their strong position and comfortable shelter to undertake a campaign during the rigors of winter.

The probable number of re-enlistments into the veteran corps from the army of the Potomac is estimated at 10,000. The delay in indicating the precise date of the 30 days' furlough has caused many to reconsider their first intentions. The desire to visit their homes during the holidays has proved more powerful than the liberal bounties offered for re-enlisting.

A GOLDEN WEDDING.

The New York *Tribune* of Monday last says:

"On Saturday evening Commodore Vanderbilt's Golden Wedding was celebrated at his residence, No. 10, Washington place; and never, it is safe to say, has an occasion of the kind come off more satisfactorily. This distinguished couple were married in 1813, when the gentleman was aged nineteen and the lady a year younger. A family of thirteen children children blessed their union, twelve of whom are now living to rejoin in the fiftieth anniversary of their parent's wedding-day. Since that quiet marriage-day, when this happy couple commenced life with nothing but youth, singular personal beauty, mutual affection and indomitable energy as their portion, they have had a career of success almost unparalleled. Slowly at first, and afterward with signal ability, they have attained reputation, wealth, and that power which wealth, and wonderful energy combined have rendered second to that of no private citizen in our country; and in all this time God has so blessed them in their home that death has taken but one child from their hearthstone. Three sons and nine daughters, eight sons-in-law and two daughters-in-law, thirty-two grand-children and two great-grand-children were almost all present at this Golden Wedding. Besides these, Jacob H. Vanderbilt, Esq., a brother of the Commodore, was present and three younger sisters with a whole bevy of nieces and nephews on both sides, which nearly filled the spacious homestead, with a splendid company each of whom was akin to the others. Beyond these very few invited guests were present, among them, Mrs. Christopher Colt and a very lovely young daughter of Hartford, Conn., with one or two old friends of the family living in this city."

The Weather in Quebec.—The Quebec *Mercury* of the 15th says.—"We were visited on Sunday with a heavy storm of wind and rain, which continued without intermission during the whole day, rendering the streets almost impassable to pedestrians.—Going abroad was like wading through a slough, and towards nightfall an out-door turn was anything but agreeable, as the hurricane increased considerably in fury, sweeping the streets, and driving before it the fast falling rain, which, by this time, had assumed the consistence of hail. As we write, the storm has again commenced, and the rain is coming down with an increased fury.

The Heenan-King Encounter.

We take the following regarding this match from *Bell's Life* of December 5:—

"All arrangement, we are happy to say, are now completed for bringing off this exciting event in the course of the ensuing week; but as to the day, time and place of starting, &c, we can say no more than this, that every one must be in London on Tuesday, December 8, at the very latest, who wishes to be present; or he will infallibly be thrown out.

"The entire conduct of the affair has been left by us in the hands of a great conveyancing firm, who have stipulated that to them must be entrusted the selection of a day, a time, an hour and a distance from the metropolis; and this being agreed to, they assured us they have every confidence that they will bring off the battle without let or hindrance The difficulty as to the 'roughs,' too, seems from the admirable arrangements that have been made to be entirely obviated. A sufficient force has been secured, exclusive of the ring constables, to insure protection to gentlemen ticket holders at the point of departure; and, as the tariff is arranged by the company at £3 3s, and not a single person, not excepting even the men and their backers and seconders, will be conveyed free, there is every hope that the company will be very select.

"As to arriving at the station on the morning of battle, we have again to request that gentlemen will pay their cabmen before starting, and give them order to drive at once to the place which will be pointed out to them by some one in authority, and at this place they may rest assured they will be able to obtain admission without molestation.—Another thing let us beg of them to observe, and that is, to be at the starting place at least an hour before that named to them. Any persons putting off their arrival to the last minute will have themselves only to blame should they be left behind. Let them not forget also the sound advice we gave them last week as to creature comforts. There is no knowing the length of the journey. All that can be depended on is that it must necessarily be over before midnight, as the conveyance must return immediately darkness comes on. The catering for a few of the Upper Ten has been undertaken by Mr. Dan Pinton as of old, but of course he cannot undertake to victual the whole expedition; and it is therefore that we advise those who are not inclined to Mr. Pinton's list to provide for themselves, as the ordinary run of camp followers will scarcely be able to pay the *honorarium* for the journey. In addition to the precaution thus taken for the comfort of travellers at the commencement of the voyage, we have to state that a selection of ring keepers has been made which we trust may prove satisfactory, as the men picked out have all agreed to stick together for once in their lives, and see what can really be done to put an end to the state of things of which we have lately had so much cause to complain. It will be the last chance, and we can assure these men, many of whom keep houses, that unless they really stand by one another and present the slightest possible interruption of any kind, and also protect the gentlemen present, the only match making we shall thenceforth recognize will be that made among gentlemen themselves, who will carry out their views without the assistance of the aforesaid sporting housekeepers, whose business will thus suffer to an extent of which they little dream.

"As to the belligerents we are assured we are fully justified in stating that both are well up to the mark. From each of their respective headquarters we have a bulletin that never was either in better health. Heenan will be a trifle bigger than when he fought Sayers, and to all appearance is a far stronger man than then. King too, is somewhat bigger than heretofore, but he is a man who never carries much flesh, and we should doubt if he will much exceed thirteen stone while the Benecia boy will be nearly fourteen stone. Heenan is still the favorite but any over five to four is freely taken by the Kingites.

"Heenan will hold his levees at Owen Swift's, and King at Mr. Richardson's but of course neither man will come to town till the last minute, and the peep the public will get at them will be of the briefest."

The French Press and the Congress.

The *Presse* of Monday thus comments upon the refusal of England to take part in the proposed congress:—

The *Moniteur* publishes this morning the despatches exchanged between Earl Russell, in the name of England, and M. Drouyn de Lhuys, in the name of France. The two despatches of the British Cabinet fully justify as will be seen, our anticipations and our conclusions. The subordination and complicity of Austria, that power which is too much caressed by M. Drouyn de Lhuys, betray themselves in this significant phrase:—"Her Majesty's Government has good reason for believing that no representative of Austria would take part in an assembly in which such a proposition (the renunciation of the possession of Venetia) would be discussed." The consequences to be drawn from the refusal of England preceding that of Austria—a double refusal, which renders the meeting of the proposed congress impossible—are, that kings are not more enlightened now than they were fifty years ago, when Napoleon I. made this avowal, which we have already cited, but which cannot be too often repeated:—"It is more natural to reckon somewhat upon the intelligence of the kings; I could not but suppose they had sufficient intelligence to understand such clear interests. I was mistaken; they have taken heed of nothing, and in their blind passion they have let loose against me everything which I had kept from them.—They will see." Yes, they will see and repent, but it will be too late. The impression, which cannot be avoided, after reading the despatches inserted in the *Moniteur* this morning is, that the policy of France will be impelled, by the logic of things, into a new path. Let us all be prepared.

In another article, which, like the preceding, is signed by M. Emile de Girardin, we find the following passages:—

England forgets too quickly and too often that she is an island. On condition of neither menacing her in the inviolability of her coasts, nor in the free passage of the seas, she is not to interfere in the affairs of the continent, which do not concern her. We do not go so far as the Emperor Napoleon I. when he said:—"With my France, England was naturally to finish and become nothing more than an appendage. Nature had made her one of our islands, quite as much as Oleron or Corsica." No, we do not go far as that, still less do we go as far commercially as a continental blockade; but after the insolent refusal of England to attend a congress, which, according to her, would only be an "occasion for idle debates, rather than a subject of deliberations having a character of public utility," we should hasten publicly to take notice of this refusal, and without hesitation we would go politically as far as a diplomatic blockade.

A London journal says that as the habit of smoking has increased in England that of deep drinking has gone out. That is some thing in favor of the smokers.

A Steel Ocean-going Ship and Steamer.

Two important launches took place on the 15th, at the building-yard of Messrs. Jones, Quiggin & Co., of Liverpool. One was a vessel of 1276 tons, the Formby, built for Messrs. C. S. Lemon & Co; and the other, the Hope, a steamer of 1496 tons, built for Messrs. Fraser, Trenholme & Co. Both vessels are made of steel plates, and though several smaller vessels formed of steel have been launched by the same builders, this is the first instance on record in which the steel has been used for ocean ships. So interesting was the event considered that Mr. Reed, the constructor of the navy, made a special journey from London to attend the launch and personally examine the vessels. The launch itself having been successfully accomplished and the models of the ships highly praised, the visitors adjourned to a *dejeuner* in the mould room. Mr. Jones, in reply to the toast of "The Builders," gave some interesting information upon the subject of steel as a material for ocean-going and mail steamers and ships of war. Steel, as now manufactured for shipbuilding purposes, was more ductile and malleable, and much stronger and lighter than iron, and in consequence vessels could not only be more economically built of this material, but greater strength and carrying capacity would also be secured. The relative strength of iron and steel was; Iron, from 19 to 22; steel, from 42 to 58. This in the Formby, the weight of steel used was 500 tons, while if she had been built of iron the weight would have been upwards of 800 tons. The Cunard mail steamer Persia (built of iron) had a burden of 3,600 tons; her horse power was 900 tons; and she carried 1,400 tons of coal, and 1,000 tons of cargo. Had she been built of steel, with the same draft of water and speed, she would carry double the cargo, and the weight of the hull would be reduced to 1,100 tons, while her total displacement or weight would be reduced one sixth. Apply this calculation to her house power, in place of 900 she would only require 750, the consumption of coals being reduced in porportion. With reference to ships of war, the question was still more important and serious, now that the system of armour-plating has been adopted. The tonnage of the Warrior was 6109; her engines worked up to 1,000 horse power; her speed averaged fourteen knots and the weight of iron in her hull was 3,100 tons making her total displacement 8,830 tons. In ordinary merchant ships the weight of the outside plating was about one third of the weight of iron in the whole vessel, but in a ship of war, owing to the extra strength required in bulkheads, water tight compartments, &c., the weight was one-fourth of the average plating. Supposing the plating of the Warrior to be three-fourths of an inch, and the outside plating to represent one-fourth of the whole weight, it would give a thickness equal to three inches on the external area. If built of steel, however, there would be a greater strength, and a saving of at least one half in weight, or 1½in. of thickness, instead of 3in; and the result would be that a ship of war which now carries an armour plating of 4½in. could carry steel plating of 9in. thick, and at the same time be superior in general strength and resisting power. But this was not the only advantage. As at present constructed, a vessel like the Warrior could only carry 1,850 tons of coal, which at the rate of 155 tons per day, only give her coal for five days consumption, while if built of steel she would have so much more carrying capacity that her coal cargo would amount to 2,515 tons, equal to sixteen days consumption.

Mr. E. J. Reed, chief constructor of the navy, said he felt the question of iron vs. steel in regard to shipbuilding to be so important that he had paid a special visit to Liverpool on this occasion. He freely acknowledged that the 'Royal' was much indebted to the enterprise and boldness displayed by the mercantile community in regard to shipbuilding. In fairness, however, to vessels of war, it must be remembered that they had to be very elaborately and carefully constructed as they were often absent four or five years in parts of the world where no repairs could be affected; while in the case of merchant vessels, even under the most difficult circumstances, repairs could generally be made once in twelve months. Those who had the management of the navy, therefore, required to exercise the greatest care in trying new inventions and making experiments. He had a very high opinion of steel as compared with iron, for shipbuilding purposes; but he would not pledge himself to any decided course in this direction, until he had seen the results of the voyages by the vessels just launched.

New Locomotive.

A mechanical genius in England has constructed a long locomotive with three pairs of wheels, some or all of which, so far as we can understand the description, are upon axles that turn like a swivel like the front wheels of a coach. The object of this plan, and which is said to be perfectly attained, is to turn sharp curves, and ascend hills, thus saving enormously in the cost of railroad construction. The following paragraph extracted from an article in the *Times*, describes the performance of this new locomotive:—

"Thus the process is simple for rendering powerful engines practicable by increasing their wheel base, and distributing the load for the ascent of heavy gradients. A mountain side may thus be traversed by a series of zigzags, like those of the old horse paths, and narrow and tortuous valleys may be threaded along the course of mountain streams. The highlands of Scotland and of Wales, of Derbyshire and the Lake Districts, the mountain regions of Italy, Switzerland and Spain are all within the reach of a cheap system of steam locomotion, dispensing with costly tunnels and protracted periods of time; and it becomes easy to deal with the streets of towns and cities, when a powerful engine, capable of large loads and high speed can more freely round a curve similar to that of the Oxford-street circus. If any of our readers doubt let them visit the St. Helen's line and judge for themselves, where they will see an engine, not merely not costly but with a principle capable of adaptation to existing stock. Hitherto, engines for lines of sharp curves have not been well adapted to high speed, but the difficulty has ceased. The same engine may traverse the plains and make its journey through, or rather over the mountains with equal facility, with the exception that it cannot afford to carry so heavy a load uphill as on the plain."

Nearly Drowned.—The Hon. L. Morin, late Solicitor-General, and a Mr. Duchesnay, got nearly drowned in the Richelieu river, at St. Hayacinthe, on the forenoon of Monday last. They were crossing the river, each holding the end of a ladder, when the ice broke beneath their feet. Mr. Duchesnay sank up to the arms, and Mr. Morin up to his neck. They remained, says the *Journal*, about twenty minutes in the water, and were got out at last by means of their ladder and a rope, by three men, who were all that would risk themselves on the ice to go to their assistance.

The application of castor oil to new boots renders them as soft as a buckskin glove.' It is also the best application that can be made to render a new boot waterproof.

"Hasty Clear Grit Legislation."—In the last issue of the Weekly *Prototype* is a slashing editorial headed "Hasty Clear Grit Legislation—History of the Act relating to Township Councils," in which the political opponents of the *Prototype* are belaboured for announcing that the new Act referred to Townships divided into Wards; (just as if they alone made the error!) So much for the second page of the *Prototype*: but on the fourth page of the same sheet, the identical Act in question is printed in full, and headed (Oh, immaculate *Prototype!*) "Township Councils—Representation by Wards abolished."

Moral—Those who live in glass houses should not throw stones; and those who undertake to prove themselves wiser than their contemporaries should have good proof-readers.

Clever Sell at New York.—A New York paper gives the following account of a clever sell on the people of New York on Wednesday evening, by the issuing of an extra purporting to detail the fight between Heenan and King, making Heenan victorious in 169 rounds! That it was entirely unlikable the knowing ones knew, as the fight was fixed for the 8th inst., and by no possibility could the details reach here at this date. Still it had its effects—put money into the purse of the proprietors—was a capitally worded and embellished affair, and was about as successful a sell as has been perpetrated since the "moon hoax." Nothing at all has been received in regard to what is attempted, erroneously, to be made an "International Fight." No steamer has arrived, no information has been received save that in regard to preliminary matters, which have been heretofore published. The excitement among our sporting community is, of course, intense, and betting runs extravagantly; very many are willing to take even bets on King, but the large preponderence is two to one on Heenan.

White House Manners, 1863—Mr. Lincoln's Disease—His Wife Bravely Bears up Under it.—President Lincoln has really had the small pox, and is not yet to be seen by visitors; I have had to content myself with an outside view of the White House.—Mr. Lincoln is much better, however, and is now able to have his joke regularly. When the committee of Congress waited on him to announce their readiness to receive the message, the President was found in his private office, clad in an old dressing gown, and looking dilapidated generally. The chairman announced in a very formal manner the object of the visit. It seemed to please the President mightily, and putting his hands deep in his breeches pockets, and throwing a leg over an arm of his chair, he replied: "Waal, if it is a matter of life and death. I can get it up to-day; but if it isn't, I'd rather wait till to-morrow, for the fact is the boys haven't got through copying it yet." It was not a matter of life and death, and the message was not sent in till Wednesday. Mrs. Lincoln did not evidently think her husband was very sick, for she went to New York last week to do "a little shopping." While there she lost her purse, containing a large sum of money, in the street. It was found and returned to her by a young patent claim agent of this city, and Mrs. Lincoln was very profuse in her thanks and offers of assistance. The freedom of the White House was tendered to the young man, who, if he isn't too bashful, may consider his fortune made.

Gold by the Shovelful.—A tradition has been current for years that some lost immigrants, in 1835, while wandering through the country drained by the Malheur, discovered mines where gold could be taken up by the shovelful. At the time the discoverers were ignorant of the characteristic of gold in its native state, and accordingly they passed on, regarding the metal as worthless. A few years later some of these men were attracted to California, and, on visiting the mines there, almost the first remark was, they "knew where bushels of that kind of stuff were to be had." Since that date scarce a year has passed that did not witness the departure of companies of men who were sent for the purpose of discovering the country described by the immigrants. These exploring parties have uniformly proved failures owing in a great measure to the hostility of the Indians, who have resolutely refused to allow the white man to prospect their country. At last, however, a party more fortunate than the rest have succeeded in finding the long lost gold field, and if reports are to be believed, the story of the richness has not been exaggerated by the original discoverers. The "prospects" show that the immigrant boy was not particularly out of the way when he used a piece of native gold as a sinker in a country where the treasure is so plentiful that it meets the eye at every turn.—*Dallas (Oregon) Mountaineer.*

Cut it Short.—A certain barber having a great gift of gab, used to amuse his customers with his long yarns, while he went through his functions on their heads and faces. One day an old edger came in, took a seat, and ordered his hair cut. The barber went to work, and began at the time one of his long stories, to the no little dissatisfaction of the old gentleman, who, becoming irritated at the barber, said, 'cut it short.'

'Yes, sir,' said the barber, continuing the yarn.

'Cut it short, I say; cut it short'

'Yes, sir,' said the barber, clipping away and gabbling the faster.

'Cut it short, cut it short, I say,' said the old gent.

'Yes, sir,' said the barber, going on with his story.

'Will you cut it short?' bawled the gentleman in a rage.

'Can't, sir,' said the barber, 'for if you'll look in the glass you'll see I've cut it all off.'

And to his horror upon looking in the glass the old gentleman found all his hair cut off his head.

Gypsum in Michigan.—At Grand Rapids, Michigan, on the Detroit and Milwaukie railway, are found extensive strata of gypsum embedded in the earth. Aside from the value of this mineral for agricultural purposes, it is capable of being wrought into various objects of utility and ornament. It can be formed into paperweights, and little cups and vases, which, in translucency, capacity of receiving a polish, and soft, beautifully shaded colors, bears a strong resemblance to the Derbyshire spar. It is of various colors, orange, pale reddish brown, and white mottled with blue. Whether there be any portion of it pure white we are not informed, if there be it is alabaster, and alabaster, it is said, is found in the lower part of quarries of gypsum, though it is found cropping out in the roads over the Appenines. An intelligent correspondent residing at Grand Rapids, says:—"The gypsum beds are immense, and are worked for two miles, one quarry being a large cave, artificial, in the side of a hill. The spar is of a great variety of colors and various degrees of hardness. If it were taken out carefully, so as to prevent what are called shakes, caused by blasting, and put into the hands of a skilful lapidary, ornaments might be made that would rival much of the alabaster work now sold in eastern auction-rooms."

No Talk of Surrender.

On the 14th inst., Governor Letcher addressed a speech to the Confederate State Legislature of Virginia, wherein he advocates in the most emphatic language the "No Surrender" policy. The following stirring words form a portion of the address:—

"Look at the picture on all sides and it presents hopeful and encouraging features.—If we are only true to ourselves, to the cause and to the country, we cannot be overthrown. Is there a man who doubts the result of the struggle? If there be such a one he is a traitor at heart, who deserves to be anathematized or cast out from among us. No State has been more loyal, more faithful, more devoted. None has contributed more liberally in means and men—none has bared their breasts more boldly or defiantly to the storm, and none has sent her troops to the harvest of death with more of the self-sacrificing devotion, than the commonwealth of Virginia.—She enlisted for the war, after full consideration, and a just appreciation of all the consequences which were to follow the separation, and she will be true to the end. She will never sue for peace, because she did not bring on this war. She will never ask for compromise, as she only struggles for her rights, for liberty and independence. She will, as becomes the mother of States, stand up boldly, and hurl her scorn and defiance in the face of her foes until they come to our terms. She will never consent to a treaty of peace which dismembers her own territory, nor will she consent to a treaty which does not recognize fully the Southern Confederacy. She knows what is due to her own dignity and character, and she knows what is due to the Confederacy, and her duty will be performed with scrupulous fidelity. Kneeling around the altar of their country, her sons will swear allegiance to her and fidelity to the Confederate government, and their prayers will ascend to Heaven for blessings on Virginia and the Southern Confederacy."

From Poland.

It is proposed by the Imperial Government of St. Petersburg, acting on a traditional idea of the Empress Catherine, to destroy Protestants and Poles in one great massacre, something like