

ject and united body, directed by one head, claiming entire independence and infallibility. The existence of such a body in religious matters what an absolute monarchy is in civil polity. In such forms of government, sects and parties are crushed at the moment of their appearance; they should annihilated when once asserted that a revolution would be necessary consequence. Such a uniformity as this is not the fruit of reason, but obtained by the sleep of death. This kind of uniformity is to be obtained by any other means, because it is contrary to nature. Minor differences will continue to exist, we believe, while the world endures. The harmony we contend for is the result of the vigorous exercise of the mind and of Christian charity. It is an agreement in essentials, which in time arise from conflicting opinions, and enlightened temper and when mankind can be brought to regard such minor differences as inseparable from our imperfect nature, with indulgence and charity, nominal distinctions of sects will still exist for a long time, but the limits of conformity will be greatly extended in all until no sufficient motive will remain for the separation and alienation of sects which now disgrace Christianity. This great result can only be brought about by a voluntary sacrifice of illiberal prejudices by all sects. Let us then endeavour to raise our minds far above the summits of those mountains of disagreement which separate all religious communities, by what now appear impenetrable barriers, to a height from whence all the inequalities and differences of the world beneath us will appear like one vast and smiling plain; and, above all, let us endeavour to realize the belief that the great Creator of the Universe is always ready to receive the prayers and offerings of all sects, which flow from pure and sincere hearts.

### TO SUBSCRIBERS.

We send the *Huron Signal* to many of our friends in the District, whom we have not had an opportunity of addressing as subscribers, on account of the bad state of the roads, and will be happy to place them on our list of subscribers. Those who do not choose to patronize us will return the paper, with "No Subscriber" written upon it. We hope that every well wisher to this District will give us their support and influence; extending our circulation. A few hundred will be of no use—we want thousands.

We furnish our townsfolk with a copy gratis, those who do not choose to be come subscribers will please notify us before we send them their names, and we will please hand in their names and residence, where they will be served by the Carrier.

## HURON SIGNAL.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 1843.  
MUNICIPAL COUNCILS.

When we first came to Canada, in the year 1842, we remarked to a friend who was giving us a description of the several institutions of the Upper Province, that the District Council was not likely to exist for any lengthened period, simply because the members of it were not allowed any compensation for their labour and loss of time. The practice of men serving the public gratis, forms no part of our creed. It is an error in every instance where it is adopted; for, in the first place, a whole community is not able or willing to pay for the transaction of the public business, it is unreasonable to suppose that a single member of that community should transact it on his own expense; and in the second place, the man who serves the public for nothing, has served nobody; there is not one out of every thousand of that great multitude called the public, who is willing to acknowledge the obligation of the generous public-spirited man. He may meet with many ungrateful donors and donations for having been guided in his conduct by the dictates of his own conscience; but he will meet with few congratulations or expressions of gratitude.

In old wealthy countries, where an aristocratic nobility has nothing to fear but the want of exercise, and nothing to wish for, but popular distinction, it may do well enough to attempt the gratification of this desire by serving the public gratis; but in Canada, where people live by labour, and where the idea of men leaving their homes and their farms, and travelling forty or fifty miles on the most miserable description of roads, and spending eight or nine days in deliberations for the public good, without receiving any wages of the public, is an unheard-of and monstrous thing. But the members of the District Council are now allowed a compensation for their labour, and if there is any one tax which the people should pay with more willingness than another it is the wages of the District Councilors. It is the wages of the District Councilors which should be managed in it is decidedly one of the institutions which could have been better.

Canada. And we would severely reprobate to assert, that with the powers which it possesses, it is calculated to exert a more immediate influence on the general improvement of the country, than the more learned and lengthened deliberations of the Provincial Parliament. Canada is a country of great extent; it is divided into large Districts and large counties, many of the townships, in almost every district, are but thinly settled, and have consequently bad roads, so that even supposing the M. P. to be a resident of the county, which is frequently not the case, it would, under these circumstances, be almost impossible for him to be so intimately acquainted with the wants and conditions of the different localities as would enable him to legislate judiciously and impartially for the various townships composing the county; even though he were honestly inclined to do so. But the institution of the District Council not only empowers the people of every respective District to apply their own revenue to their own local improvements; but by giving a councillor to each township the entire conduct of the county is ascertained, and the claims, wants, and grievances of the several townships are duly represented, and brought under the notice of the men who have both the power, the interest, and the means of adjusting and rectifying such matters. A member of the House of Assembly may be very faithful in representing the general claims, and interests of a large county constituency, so far as these claims and interests are known to him; but a large amount of the comfort and prosperity of the constituency depends upon minor particulars, which will scarcely come under his cognizance. But the councillor for any given township, if he is a man of average information, and of practical improvement (and such men alone should be elected to the office) he is aware that the value of his property, his prosperity, his comfort even his reputation to some extent is involved in the general intelligence, improvement, and prosperity of the township; and even though he were destitute of superior motives, self-interest alone would induce him to promote the welfare and prosperity of his constituency. And there

will not be a remote or distant school section—a broken-down bridge, a wretched crossway, a steep hill, or an ugly gutter throughout the township that is not known to him; and in the enjoyment of which he does not feel an interest.

From these views, we hope our readers will perceive the value and importance of Municipal Councils in Canada, and will, also, see the necessity and the advantage of electing men who are eligible from other and superior qualifications than the amount of property; men who understand, and manifest a zeal for the promotion of the public good, upon principles of practical economy; for, however, much we may be opposed to serving the public without pay, we are still more opposed to the practice of paying below the real value of the services, and to the still more wasteful practice of originating or creating offices of emolument where no service is either rendered or required.

The Huron District Council, met upon the afternoon of Tuesday the first instant when we believe the whole members and rather more present. Protests founded on the illegality of the time and particular circumstances connected with several of the elections were submitted to consideration, and two or three of the members who had travelled a considerable distance were sent home either as being superfluous or as having been unduly elected.

We are not altogether satisfied that the Council is empowered to settle these protested elections in the absence of the returning officers, who should certainly be regarded as the responsible parties. The tenor of the Act leads us to believe that all such protests and appeals must be carried before a higher tribunal. While at the same time we think that the power of deciding such cases should really be invested in the Council—it would be a saving of time and expense; besides the Councilors are more intimately acquainted with the merits and peculiar circumstances of the case.

In all instances the explicit requirements of the act must be complied with, otherwise the proceedings are illegal, and it is a pity and no less so, that much time is lost by almost all District Councils in discussing questions that are entirely beyond their sphere of action.—Such was the discussion regarding the particular hour when the meeting for the election of Councilors should take place. The Municipal Act states expressly that the meeting shall be held at ten o'clock, A. M. If this requirement is complied with, the election is not legal; and the fact of the protest not being entered at the time has not the slightest tendency to make it legal, for we are not aware that the lapse of a few weeks or months can extenuate a willful neglect of law. The other objection urged by some of the Councilors, namely, that because the amended Municipal Act when specifying the particular hour of the Town meeting, does not say the clause relating to this point in the original Act is hereby repealed;—therefore, the subject of meeting is a question of course. This objection we say, has all the appearance of a quibble—it is a mere sham. We are not aware that, where one law is intended to abrogate another, an indispensable condition to its adoption is an intimation that it does so. Such an intimation may be useful and generally speaking, is recognized as one of the formalities of law-making; but in some instances this formality should be neglected or dispensed with, it would certainly be inauspicious the legislature should argue that the new law is not legal, and the fact of the latest law upon any given subject must be regarded as the law of the land.

We think it is a matter of little consequence whether ten, or eleven, or twelve should be recognized as the proper hour; but since there is no law on the subject let us abide by it. And how ever trivial or unimportant the question may be, if it belongs to the public it ought to be fairly and honestly dealt with. We are unopposed to any opposition to all allowing ourselves or party selfish purposes, from whatever source they emanate.

**MUNICIPAL COUNCILS.**—A short but interesting discussion took place in the Council on Friday afternoon in consequence of a motion by Mr. Melnyre, Councillor for Fallerton, to the effect that the Council should authorize the removal of the Fallerton Town Meetings to a central locality. The motion was seconded on the fact that the present place of meeting is situated at the very extremity of the township, and in the immediate vicinity of a swamp, and that a number of persons residing in some parts of the township would have to travel a considerable distance to get to the place, and of giving annoyance to such as were sojourning in the village of Fallerton, and who were consulting the interest and welfare of the population. It was urged in objection that Mr. Melnyre had no instructions or petition from his constituents for the proposed change, and that his object was merely to bring the meetings nearer to his own residence. Be it so, Mr. Melnyre had a perfect right to bring forward his motion, and the Council had a perfect right to pass it, because it was shown by the map of Fallerton that the place proposed by Mr. Melnyre was very nearly in the center of the township. Mr. Vanegmond doubted if the Council had the power of changing the place of meeting. They were authorized to appoint the place at first, but he seemed to doubt their right to cancel their own act in this particular respect. We are certainly not living under the laws of the M.P. and Persons, we are not aware of any body of men having power to make a law who at the same time do not retain the power of making another to repeal it, and on this point the Municipal Act is quite explicit. J. Hodgins, Esq., said that no town meetings should be held in or near a tavern, and we heartily concur in the opinion. We think that all meetings where the interest of the community is involved should be as far from taverns as the circumstances will conveniently allow, for although the majority of the meeting may be disposed to conduct the business with becoming prudence and sobriety yet, certainly, experience might easily every man that it is all but impossible to converge a large body of men in and around a tavern, without being subjected to more or less of that disagreeable annoyance and interruption which uniformly arises from intoxication. And it is very difficult to convince us that a drunk man, or a half drunk man, or a man partially recovered from drunkenness by a few hours sleep, is capable of either thinking, speaking, or acting, as he ought to do. It is a physiological impossibility, and therefore, we cannot believe it. In short, we need not go to meetings held

under such circumstances in any other light than as being a mere waste of time, and a perversion of the purposes for which they were intended, and the sooner the practice is subjected to the reprobation of public opinion the better.

The discussion subsequently resolved itself into a motion by Mr. Vanegmond, seconded by Mr. Home, to the effect that the people be allowed to express their opinions through their respective Councilors regarding the proper situation for holding the township meetings. The amendment was founded on the fact that the Councilor is the representative of the opinions of his constituency—it was to the effect that the Council do possess the power to appoint the place of meeting. The statute says so, and therefore, we think that much of the discussion was superfluous, and if the statute had not said so the putting of the amendment would have been absurd because no body of men can invest themselves with additional authority by their own votes.

**COMMUNICATION OF STAGNANT LABOR.**—On Monday a By-law was brought before the Council, relating to the communication of stagnant labor. We could not perceive any material difference between the By-law and the strict letter of the statute on this subject, and would, therefore, not have noticed it only for an amendment proposed by Mr. Sparling, seconded by Mr. Melnyre, substituting two shillings in lieu of two and six pence as the daily commutation money; and we certainly felt sorry that so few of the Councilors could take the same view of the subject as the mover and seconder had taken. The objection was that it was merely Storekeepers, Clerks, Lawyers and wealthy people generally that could be benefited by the amendment. This is not Mr. Sparling's view of the matter, and we are warranted in asserting that it is very far from being correct. We think there is not a tradesman in Goderich who would not cheerfully pay two shillings rather than work a laborious day's work upon the roads, and we are persuaded that there is not a labouring man who has been accustomed to such work, who could not do as much as two shillings, taking into account his own tradesman's indifference to the matter. We think that if every one abiding in the town of Goderich, and every individual liable to perform statute labour, and given, not to pathmakers to expend at pleasure, but to the District Treasurer, subject to the control of the Council who should have the power of letting all road labour by contract, then, and not till then, we would have some prospect of seeing good roads in Canada.

And if time is of any value to the farmer, few persons at the height of about one hundred and working on the roads if fifteen pence per day would exempt them from the income obligation. We lately saw a cut made through a small and bill upon a public road by promiscuous statute labour and coasting two shillings and six pence per day to every man, who was sent upwards of thirty pounds, and the finished we actually heard a labouring man who had wrought at it declare that he would have cut it by contract for thirty dollars. The people supposed they were working for the Queen and not for the Government; good opinion of the people of Huron, we cannot help thinking that many of them will go to perform their road labour under the same false impression.

### GODERICH AND ITS VICINITY.

The town or future city of Goderich, stands upon an eminence on the bank of Lake Huron; perhaps at the height of about one hundred feet above the water of the lake. The river Maitland winds down a deep broad glen on the north side of the town, and forms one of the peculiar beauties of the place. It is a stream of considerable magnitude, and the Harbour which is perhaps one of the safest in the world, is in the river, a short distance from its mouth.

About a mile above the Harbour is a good substantial wooden bridge erected by the British Government through the Canada Company. The waters glide slowly and smoothly from the Bridge to the lake, occasional splashing into the straits, forming a number of little flat islands, which a summer exhibit the variegated beauties of so many flower-plots, and assist much in rendering the scene both romantic and delightful.

The town contains one of neat and even elegant brick and frame buildings, but the streets or rather the lazar, is not of the most uniform or tasteful description; a large portion of the houses being built of stone, and some of them in some difficult to be seen, and the appearance of the place; but from our own observations we would suppose it contains not one thousand inhabitants. It has five churches; a Scotch Secession, a Methodist, Old Kirk, Episcopal and a Catholic. It has a neat stone Jail and Council or Court-rooms erected at a rather inconvenient distance from the town. And on the high bank above the shore, on the south side of the harbour a handsome little stone lighthouse was built in 1846. The upper part of the town, a large square, is in the meantime an ornament to the place and a field for recreation and juvenile amusements; and we trust that our worthy citizens possessed of sufficient enterprise to embellish it with a good stone Market-house, for it is a country in the world capable of affording an ample supply of the produce of the soil, and for the market, it is the country around Goderich. The soil in and about the town, to a distance of perhaps one or two miles, is inferior, consisting chiefly of a loose gravelly sand, incumbent on a considerable depth, upon a kind of grey irregularly stratified limestone. Lake Huron, however, is the great object of beauty, wonder and admiration at Goderich; and it conveys an idea so vast that it is scarcely expressible. When you look abroad upon this great abyss of waters, it is equivalent to looking upon the mighty ocean; there is nothing to be seen—nothing for the eye to rest upon.

There is no rock—not an island—nothing to mar the power of vision. It is lost in the dim distance. And when you reflect that you are hundreds—many directions, thousands of miles from the ocean; that you are standing where a few years ago was a dense and almost unbroken desert; that you are gazing upon a field of fresh-water, larger in extent than the land which gave you birth, you get bewildered and lost in the immensity of the idea, and the mind gradually and involuntarily wanders away.

To some few friends that live in lands far, far beyond the sea.

We would willingly say something beautiful, respecting the quantity and quality of the Ladies, but being at such a great distance from home are afraid that in these days of evil-speaking evil world might put an evil construction upon our honest compliments. But the ladies have that wishes. We will give some information regarding the District in our next.

**THE WEATHER.**—We know not if our threatened visitation Sir John Herschel on the subject of weather had any effect, but certain that we have to acknowledge the receipt of a letter, and a little sleighing. The farmer is making the most of it, and we believe that more business has been done in Goderich these four days, than was transacted during the three preceding weeks.

We understand there are a great number of islands in Lake Huron, some of them very large, even eighty or ninety miles in length; but there is not one within sight of Goderich. The Lake is a source of more than pleasure and amusement; it is a source of considerable profit. The immense quantities of Herring, Trout, and Whitefish caught and exported annually, occasion perhaps a greater amount of trade than any abundance of these kinds of fish, and the facility with which they can be caught, that wealthy men have embarked in it as a profitable speculation. The Hon. William Cayley, member for Huron, has had a very extensive fishing establishment up at the Islands for some years past; and many others are engaged in the business; and such success has been the success that even thousands of barrels of fish have been caught in one season.—In winter when the ice is gone, they cut holes through it and with baited hooks catch great quantities of large trout; and many salmon are caught in the river Maitland; so that if every other source of subsistence should fail, the people of Goderich could live upon fish.

We are of opinion that the greatest desideratum in the place, both as regards enjoyment and convenience, is the want of a Steamboat. The expense of land-carriage on Canadian roads, to such a distance as that to which we are removed from the commercial world, is a serious drawback upon all mercantile and even agricultural enterprise; and though the greater part of the commerce of Goderich is done by shipping, shippers and wealthy people generally that could be benefited by the amendment. This is not Mr. Sparling's view of the matter, and we are warranted in asserting that it is very far from being correct. We think there is not a tradesman in Goderich who would not cheerfully pay two shillings rather than work a laborious day's work upon the roads, and we are persuaded that there is not a labouring man who has been accustomed to such work, who could not do as much as two shillings, taking into account his own tradesman's indifference to the matter. We think that if every one abiding in the town of Goderich, and every individual liable to perform statute labour, and given, not to pathmakers to expend at pleasure, but to the District Treasurer, subject to the control of the Council who should have the power of letting all road labour by contract, then, and not till then, we would have some prospect of seeing good roads in Canada.

political or civil aspirants, that country in Canada, it is true, but the course here, not with theocratic power or political purpose of gaining a measure; and certainly it is method of conducting to a in wrangling and litigious political ascendancy. On we should be the impro and the adaptation of her mediate wants of the pro so that the great end for necessity of two contending watching over each other, these rights are equal, they agree to be represented willing to recognize this upon it. Two opposing right; we think we have policy of Conservatism is we not admit the necessity of would just be admitting a sense of error, which a system of philosophy.

**NEW T.**

In looking back upon it we remember an old man the name of "Blind H." years ago called (Bunda "New Big" of Ayr town quiet Scotch tone "Kee And when the mischief insist upon the propriety the poor good-natured B reply, "Well I fear you're not a young man, but it you've had to learn ought honest, honest, Blind!" ah! But thou wouldst fiddle in these days the tune of the "Vicar the only popular melody a kind of honest, straight principles in the eye Bury, that we can scarce His openly declares that I rous the changes—what the power and the pat

"Whoever might B He would be Vicar The Brookline "S the last four years has serves of many of her Ma by playing "Keep the by the very loudest key; is over the Vicar of Bray."

"The Toronto Herald takes a well written article the Oxford Electors. The soning of the Herald, w Returning Officer would be declared Mr. Hucks; ing the question of his e of Parliament."

Upon which the Han following stringent rem "Wonder whether the being obtaining power, w being entirely at their n on the opinion of Gowen is, as we expect present language is not Radicals accept his s him a most objection; the next twelve-months to all parties. It is Pilot, though, to throw ing gentlemen's hopes, fairly induce into off board, that Col. Prin some views on the O emanated from Mr. Go

The Spectator should ber that

"Man is a carnivorous And must have meat! He cannot live like w But, like the shark a Dean Swift either i Allies," or in his "I does no task more h than that of writing i ministrations. And it and pregnant with rui it. The defeated par ces though they were are not—in fact, his c of their abasement, m and to the party in p of pious delusion by f feeble efforts to th opinion of Herodot all sides. And for th opinion of the Spe "Vicar of Bray" p month, will afford a

**ME**

The New York r rumours about Mea Scott has been lord officers. Worth h need for saying so rumour says that f misbehaviour tow the arrest—say he taken the pet and vited to a large b Next, he is not con There is to be pe them there is to be sentiment of Jug expressed in the f clarinet Gazette r

MY DEAR SIR, since, the terms with Mexico is a first blow was at was unnecessary commenced, by disputed territory. And I think questionably, has an end to the w principles.

After agreeing a treaty should upon the Execu a peace to Mexi ing the negoti suspended. If do this, in the the army be req