HURON SIGNAL.

TEN SHILLINGS IN ADVANCE. | "THE GREATEST POSSIBLE GOOD TO THE GREATEST POSSIBLE NUMBER." | TWELVE AND SIX PENCE AT THE END OF THE YEAR.

VOLUME I. | GODERICH, HURON DISTRICT, (C. W.) FRIDAY, DECEMBER 1, 1848. | NUMBER 44.

1,500,000 ACRES OF LAND FOR SALE IN CANADA WEST.

THE CANADA COMPANY have for disposal, about 1,500,000 ACRES OF LAND dispersed throughout most of the Townships in Upper Canada—nearly 500,000 Acres are situated in the *Huron Tract*, well known as one of the most fertile parts of the Province—it has trebled its population in five years, and now contains upwards of 20,000 inhabitants.

The LANDS are offered by way of *LEASE*; *for Ten Years, or for Sale, CASH DOWN—the plan of one-fifth Cash, and the balance in Instalments being done away with.*

The Rents payable 1st February each year, are about the Interest at Six Per Cent. upon the price of the Land. Upon most of the Lots, when *LEASED*, NO MONEY IS REQUIRED DOWN—whilst upon the others, according to locality, one, two, or three years Rent, must be paid in advance,—but these payments will free the Settler from further calls until 2nd, 3rd or 4th year of his term of Lease.

The right to PURCHASE the FREEHOLD during the term, is secured to the Lessee at a fixed sum named in Lease, and an allowance is made according to anticipated payment.

Lists of Lands, and any further information can be obtained, (by application, if by letter post-paid) at the COMPANY'S OFFICES, *Toronto*, and *Goderich*; of R. BIRDSALL, Esq., *Asphodel*, Colborne District; Dr. ALLING, *Guelph*, or J. C. W. DALY, Esq., *Stratford*, Huron District.

Goderich, March 17, 1848. 7

STRACHAN & LIZARS,

BARRISTERS and Attornies at Law, Solicitors in Chancery, and Bankruptcy, Notary Public and Conveyancers, Goderich and Stratford, Huron District, C. W.
JOHN STRACHAN, Goderich.
DANIEL HOME LIZARS, Stratford.
Goderich, April 20, 1848. 6m1

NOTICE.

APPLICATION will be made to the next Session of the Provincial Legislature, for leave to bring in a Bill to constitute and form the following Townships and Gore, and Block of Land, viz:—North Easthope, South Easthope, Downie and Gore,—Ellice, Blanshard, Fullarton, Logan and Hibbert.—Wellesley, Mornington and Maryborough, and Western half of Wilmot, and the Block of Land behind Logan,—into a new District. ALEX. MITCHELL.
Sec'y of Committee.
Statford, [Huron], 1st of April, 1848. 10m6

FARM FOR SALE.

THE Subscriber offers for sale Lot No. one in the seventh Concession of the Township of Colborne, West Division. There is on the premises a small Log Barn, with 15 acres under good cultivation, and well fenced. The Land is of excellent quality, and within 6 miles of the Town of Goderich, containing 100 acres.

TERMS of Sale will be made known by applying to William Robertson, Esq., Canada Company's Office, Goderich, or to the subscriber.

DAVID SMITH.
Goderich, March 1st, 1848. 6tf

TO THOSE IT MAY CONCERN.

MR. OLIVER, having left the whole of his unsettled accounts with the Clerk of the 1st Division Court, Goderich, advises all parties indebted to him to see that gentleman before the 20th of next month.—Any information required, will be given at the office only, where a person will be always in attendance.
Goderich, June 29, 1848.

JOHN J. E. LINTON,
NOTARY PUBLIC,
Commissioner Queen's Bench,
AND CONVEYANCER,
STRATFORD.

NOTICE.

THE inhabitants of the town of Goderich will apply to Parliament for an Act to Icorporate the said town.
Goderich, July 29th, 1848. 27tf

DR. HAMILTON,
SURGEON,
WEST STREET,
GODERICH.

E. C. WATSON,
PAINTER AND GLAZIER,
PAPER HANGER, &c. &c.
GODERICH.

D. WATSON,
BARRISTER AND ATTORNEY AT LAW,
SOLICITOR IN CHANCERY, BANKRUPTCY, &c.
OFFICE IN THE MARKET SQUARE,
GODERICH.
Feb., 1848. 3y

DR. P. A. McDOUGALL,
CAN be consulted at all hours, at the *British Hotel*, (LANCASTER'S.)
Goderich, Sept. 13th, 1848. 33-

Poetry.

"TWELVE YEARS HAVE FLOWN."

BY PROSPER M. WEMMORE.

Twelve years have flown since last I saw
My birthplace and my home of youth;
How oft its scenes would memory draw,
Her tints the pencillings of truth:
Unto that spot I come once more,
The dearest life hath ever known;
And still it wears the look it wore,
Although twelve weary years have flown.

Again upon the soil I stand
Where first my infant footsteps stray'd;
Again I view my "father-land,"
And wander through its pleasant shade:
I gaze upon the hills, the skies,
The verdant banks with flowers o'ergrown,
And while I look with glistening eyes,
Almost forge: twelve years are flown.

Twelve years are flown! those words are brief,
Yet in their sound what fancies dwell:
The hours of bless, the days of grief,
The joys and woes remember'd well:
The hopes that fill'd the youthful breast,
Alas! how many a one o'erthrown!
Deep thoughts, that long have been at rest,
Wake at the words, twelve years have flown!

The past! the past! a saddening thought,
A withering spell is in the sound!
It comes with memories deeply fraught
Of youthful pleasure's giddy bound;
Of forms that roved life's sunniest bowers,
The cherish'd few for ever gone:
Of dreams that fill'd life's morning hours,
Where are they now? Twelve years have flown!

A brief but eloquent reply!
Where are youth's hopes — life's morning dream?
Seek for the flowers that floated by
Upon the rushing mountain stream!
Yet gems beneath that wave may sleep,
Till after years shall make them known:
Thus golden thoughts the heart will keep,
That perish not, though years have flown.

FOOTSTEPS OF ANGELS.

BY HENRY WADSWORTH LONGFELLOW.

When the hours of Day are number'd,
And the voices of the Night
Wake the better soul that slumber'd,
To a holy, calm delight;

Ere the evening lamps are lighted,
And, like phantoms grim and tall,
Shadows from the fitful firelight
Dance upon the parlour wall;

Then the forms of the departed
Enter at the open door;
The beloved ones, the true-hearted,
Come to visit me once more;

He, the young and strong, who cherish'd
Noble longings for the strife,
By the roadside fell and perish'd,
Weary with the march of life!

They, the holy ones and weakly,
Who the cross of suffering bore,
Folded their pale hands so meekly,
Spake with us on earth no more!

And with them the Being Beauteous,
Who unto my youth was given,
More than all things else to love me,
And is now a saint in heaven.

With a slow and noiseless footstep
Comes that messenger divine,
Takes the vacant chair beside me,
Lays her gentle hand in mine.

And she sits and gazes at me
With those deep and tender eyes,
Like the stars, so still and saint-like,
Looking downward from the skies.

Utter'd not, yet comprehended,
Is the spirit's voiceless prayer,
Soft rebukes, in blessings ended,
Breathing from her lips of air.

Oh, though oft depress'd and lonely,
All my fears are laid aside
If I but remember only
Such as these have lived and died!

BOOKS.

Books are not only the friends of individual solitude, but also of the family circle. They contribute to bind it together, to fill up deficiencies, to cover flaws, to make it closer and brighter and firmer. By engaging the thoughts, improving the taste, and exciting the kindly feelings of the members of a household, they render each one more considerate and gentle, and more useful and agreeable to the rest. They insensibly introduce mental grace and refinement, and not only so, but refinement and grace of manners, wherever they become favorites. Show us a family in which the best and purest authors are loved and read, and we care not in what nominal rank of society they are stationed, or what may be their wealth, or want of it, or what may be their daily avocations; but we will answer for them, that vulgarity and coarseness have no place at their meetings, and that domestic peace is a dwelling among them.

The domestic seavices which books are qualified to perform, are particularly valuable when the business and bustle of daylight are over, and the active interests of life are hushed into slumber under the brooding wings of night. The master of the house comes home from his office, counting-room, or workshop, the children come home from their schools, or places of employment, the mother's household duties are done, and they sit down together.—What shall they do with the impending hours to keep them from hanging heavily. We suppose that there are some families, in town and country, who find, if there is no party to go to, or no place of public amusement to offer its attractions, such as they may be, or nothing particularly interesting to discuss in the events of the day, or the character or fortunes of their neighbours, that the long winter evenings, by which we mean the evenings of six months in our year, are apt to move off rather slowly and wearily. This would not be so, we are persuaded, if they would just call in to their assistance one or two of the friends which they would find in good books. How much more swiftly and pleasantly, not to say profitably, the hours would then glide away! . . . . What honest friends, what sympathising companions, what excellent instructors they are! How can a man be really solitary when these and nature are with him and around him? How can it be said of him, that he is without society, even though no being of flesh and blood be near him, when he can sit down in his closet with the best and brightest minds which ever dwelt, and beamed in residences of clay; with the master spirits of all time; with the souls of the mighty living and the mighty dead; the dead who are yet living; with ancient and modern lawgivers, philosophers, and bards; with moralists; with civilians and divines; with navigators and travellers; with the explorers of nature and the professors of art; with patriots; with saints; with martyrs; with Apostles of Christ; with prophets of God? Who shall say, that with these he is alone? Who shall say that in his sorrow he is without consolers; that in his trials and perplexities, and the various conditions of his mind and feelings, he is without spiritual advisers?—*Greenwood.*

From the Montreal Transcript.

LECTURES OF THE MERCANTILE LIBRARY ASSOCIATION.

Pursuant to notice, the introductory lecture was delivered before the members of the above mentioned Association, in the large room of Donegana's hotel, on Thursday evening, by the Rev. Henry Wilkes, A. M., pastor of Zion Church, in this city.

His Excellency the Earl of Elgin, who has kindly condescended to become the patron of the Association, was present, as also Lady A. Langton, Major Campbell, the Hon. Col. Bruce and Lord Mark Kerr. The distinguished visitors occupied seats on the platform, to the right of the Rev. Lecturer, together with the President and Vice President, and John Young, Esq., the other side being occupied by the officers of the Association.

We never have seen so large an audience congregated, on a like occasion, in Montreal. The splendid room, the largest in the city, with the exception of the room over the Bonsecours market, being completely filled, and every seat occupied before the arrival of the Governor General and his *suite*.

We listened to one of the ablest and most eloquent lectures it has ever been our happiness to hear, and only regret that in consequence of the crowded state of the room, and our being, therefore, compelled to stand throughout the evening, we had no opportunity of giving more than a mere brief sketch from memory of what we had originally intended to have noticed more at length.

The Rev. Mr. Wilkes having sat down, His Excellency the Governor General rose, and having motioned the audience, who had risen as a mark of respect, to retain their seats, proceeded to express the pleasure he felt in having become the Patron of an Institution which had so laudable an aim as the Mercantile Library Association. He would, he said, be always happy to foster and encourage institutions of that description, whether in the character of private gentleman, or in the high office he held as the representative of Her Majesty. It gave him the greater pleasure to accede to the request of the members of the Association, in so far as it was one intended to improve the minds of young men who would hereafter be the commercial men of the country. His Lordship alluded to the foundation of the Association by some of the leading merchants of the city of Montreal, one of the founders he believed was then seated near him—and to its having been afterwards given up to the young men who now sustained it, and expressed his satisfaction at the creditable manner in which it was sustained. He spoke of the high character of the British merchant, whom it was the object of these young men to emulate; and in allusion to the commercial profession, observed, that practised with honor and integrity, it always led to respectability—often to wealth and high distinction.

In urging the young men he was addressing to be sure that their aims were correct, and the object of their pursuit worth the labor of pursuing, and when satisfied that the aim was right, to pursue it with unwearied energy. His Lordship spoke of an anecdote he had lately read of one of the most distinguished men of any age or country (he alluded to Watt) who, when examining the right of reservation of patents, was struck with the similarity of ideas in many patents for which a right had been obtained, to certain ideas which had floated in his own brain, but which had never been brought to maturity in consequence of their imperfection—while the patents themselves had sunk to insignificance and were forgotten. From this Watts saw the necessity of thoroughly understanding principles before those principles were put in practice; and His Lordship related the anecdote as an illustration of the necessity of any person in whatever situation of life he held a high position, being thoroughly imbued with the elements of his profession. The carpenter and mason, he said, must know much; but the architect should know all.—The sailor and steersman needed skill, but how much more was needed by the master of the ship who directed their efforts; or to bring the subject nearer home to those he was addressing, they were all aware of the duties required from merchants's clerks in their several occupations; but the merchant, to obtain eminence, must be thoroughly acquainted with business in all its details, and have his attention directed to the mercantile transactions of all parts of the world.

He strongly impressed on the young men of the Association the importance of knowledge. The man, he observed, who did not acquire every information that laid in his power, in these days of mental advancement, speedily was distanced by his fellows and sunk into obscurity. His Lordship alluded, in the course of his address, in terms of the highest eulogy, to the exceedingly eloquent lecture he had just been listening to from the lips of the Rev. Gentleman behind him; and after having spoken for a considerable period with great animation, very much to the gratification of the audience, he sat donwn amid a perfect enthusiasm of applause.

In concluding this report, we must state that, being at a great distance from the speakers, and unable to take any notes, we have had to trust entirely to memory, and beg to be excused if we have not said all we should have done, had we had a better opportunity, or for any errors we have committed.

We believe that we are not wrong in stating that the Mercantile Library Association of Montreal has been honored in a manner that no Provincial literary institution has ever been before. It is a rare, if not an unprecedented occurrence, for a nobleman of the high attainments and holding the exalted station of the Earl of Elgin, to address in a speech of such detail, the Association to which he has been pleased to extend his patronage—and we are confident the occasion of the opening the winter course of lectures for the year 1849, will long be remembered by all connected with the Mercantile Library Association of this city.

CANADIAN REFORM BILL.

From the Examiner.

Two weeks ago we laid before the public, in advance of all our cotemporaries, the outline of the scheme for representative Reform, which is to be brought before Parliament at its next session. It will propose an addition of sixty-eight members to the present House. The necessity for this increase arises out of the increase of our population. To preserve the due proportion between the representative and the constituent bodies, the expansion of the one must be adjusted to the progress of the other. Besides, there are evils inherent in, and inseparable from a small Legislative Chamber. The Executive power has too great a chance to control the Legislative, and thus invert the natural order of things, by personal influence, and the distribution of patronage. The Executive is thus enabled practically to usurp and controul that power which theoretically holds it in check and controuls its destiny. It commands where it should obey. In a scheme of Government like ours, which vests all the patronage in the Executive, a corrupt or unscrupulous Ministry, in a House of only 84 members has frequent opportunities, by pursuing a system of patronage-bribery, to reverse the deliberately expressed sentiments of a majority transformed into a minority by the purchase of a Roblin, the treachery of a Prince, and the disfranchising and misrepresenting of three or four constituencies. So atrocious a violation of public rights could not so easily be effected in a larger House; in which the chances are that parties would be less evenly balanced than in the last Parliament. The numerical aspect of our present House of Assembly detracts from the importance which should attach to a Legislative body, while interests of such importance are entrusted to each individual Member, that one or two instances of betrayal of trust, may throw the majority into the hands of the very party whose principles have been deliberately condemned by a majority of the electors.—By adding to the numbers of a deliberative Assembly, previously very small, a check against hasty and ill-considered Legislation is formed.

No recognized or existing principle points out the precise number of Inhabitants that one Member should represent. As the circumstances of a country differ, the number of inhabitants to each Parliamentary representative varies. A Bill for increasing the representation for Upper Canada passed in 1820, gave to each District containing 1000 inhabitants one representative, and to each District containing 4000 inhabitants two representatives. Owing to the increase of population this ratio of representation to population would now give too large a number of representatives. By the proposed measure, a county must contain 15,000 inhabitants to entitle it to two representatives. The ratio of representatives to population, is one which depends upon the existing circumstances of a country. It may have been very proper at one time to allot two representatives to every 4000 inhabitants; it is equally so now to raise the number to 15,000; while in the United States House of Representatives there is a perfect propriety and a wise adaptation to cucumstances, in each member 70,000 inhabitants. A reform is worthless or mischevous if it do not adapt institutions to the condition and wants of society. As society grows its institutions must expand, the garments of the infant become useless to the full-grown man. In the successive stages of a nation's growth, frequent modifications of its institutions are required.—New developements bring with them new wants. It would be equally absurd for Canada, with its present population and intelligence to adopt a ratio of representation suited to its condition thirty years ago, or that suited to the present condition of the United States, with its 20,000,000 of inhabitants. A small number of men may manage the trifling affairs of a District, but numbers and wisdom are required to deliberate on those of a nation. There is a limit beyond which a deliberative Assembly would become unmanageable from numbers. On the other hand there is a *status* which must be attained to command attention and respect. The proposed increase of representatives involves no radical principles of reform, nor is it intended as a "finality" scheme; its whole purpose being simply to adapt the representation to the present circumstances and condition of the country.

Though no fixed principle can determine the ratio of representatives to population, it is very different with the question of uniformity and equality in the numbers, which each member should represent. Representation is simply the sending of substitutes to deliberate and decide on public affairs; the personal attendance of the whole constituent body being impracticable. The theory of representation which may be regarded as perfect is that which makes each member of the Legislature the representative of an equal number of electors. It must be a question, in every case, how far this principle is capable of being applied.—Every theory is worthless if an approximation to its practical realization cannot be attained. And if absolute uniformity be attained to day, local variations in the population will destroy that uniformity to-morrow; without, however, creating striking discrepancies. Time passes; the tide of population flows unequally, and rushes into quarters which before it had not visited; and the representation again requires extension and re-adjustment. When perfection is difficult or impossible of attainment, and where fixity of population does not exist: the closest approximation to the standard which it is desirable to attain should be attempted. Electoral districts, which shall be each entitled to two representatives, cannot be so formed that every one will contain 15,000 inhitants, unless the present distinctions of Counties and Districts be for Electoral purposes, erased, and the apportionment be made immediately after the taking of the general census. Counties which contain less than 15,000 inhabitants, and therefore not entitled, on the proposed plan, to send two members, may contain 12,000; which is 4000 more than would on this principle be entitled to send one member. In such cases the residuary population must be either unrepresented (though all the 12,000 votes would of course be cast for one member) or be joined to the next nearest electoral division, which may also contain a residuary population. This, of couse, supposes the present electoral divisions to be adhered to as nearly as possible; for if the whole country were divided into electoral districts, of 15,000 inhabitants each, there would be no residuary population, except the fraction that might remain at one extremity of the country, after the whole had been mapped off.

The ministerial scheme contains one principle which it is well known the *Examiner* has opposed—viz. the proposal to allot to each section of the Province an equal number of representatives; instead of merging the distinction between Upper and Lower Canada, and treating the country as one United Province. If Lower Canada is satisfied with this arrangement, though the census should prove that she possesses a population considerably larger than of Upper Canada, we do not see that as a matter of expediency we should now continue to oppose it, though we did so as a matter of principle, before the government measure had been decided upon. We copy on our first page an article from the London *Daily News* on the controversy between the *Examiner* and the *Pilot* on this subject. It will be seen that that talented powerful journal agrees with the *Examiner* that population alone forms the correct basis of representation. The *News*, however, is under a misapprehension in supposing that to apportion an equal number of representatives to Upper and Lower Canada respectively, would be a concession to the nationality of the Canadians. It is the very reverse. It may be that the census will show that Lower Canada does not now possess a much larger population than Upper Canada. As the *Daily News* remarks, we must be content with the best measure that can be carried, and not endanger the carrying of any reform Bill because a perfect measure may not be attainable. It is determined, we understand, that no attempt shall now be made to get rid of the boroughs. When we cannot do what we would, we must be content to do what we can. The small boroughs are a standing injustice and a source of corruption; but if it be impossible to get rid of them now, this is no reason why we should not accept the fullest measure of reform within our reach.

A sum of 62,000f. has been distributed by the French Government among the literary men in Paris, who have ben reduced to want by the revolution of February.

THE GREAT SLAVERY QUESTION.

In another place will be found a communicated article of some length roughly blocking out, what the writer believes to be a practicable plan for the extinction of human slavery in this republic. We received it some months ago, when the Presidential election was beginning to absorb the public mind, and, with a private explanation to the writer, kept it back for a more favorable season—for a time when, in our judgment, it would have a better chance for serious consideration.

The plan includes the two elements of gradual progress and compensation to the owners of the slaves, and, so far, meets a probable necessity in any plan, from which their is no escape. Emancipation, without compensation of some kind and to some extent, would never be submitted to, willingly, by the owners of slave property, and to force it upon them would be unjust, even if it were possible. On the other hand, emancipation of all the slaves, at once, would give a magnitde to the compensation which it would be extremely inconvenient to provide for. To meet these necessities of the case, the writer of the article proposes that the work of emancipation be carried through a term of twenty years, one-twentieth of the whole slave population being set free every year, and that an adequate sum of money, say three hundred millions of dollars, be appropriated for the compensation of the owners, payable in twenty annual instalments of fifteen millions each. For some details of explanation, and for some argumentative views touching the practicability of the scheme, we refer to the article itself.

We are induced to bring the subject forward now by two considerations; first, a belief that the time is favorable—second, by a corresponding belief that it is very desirable to have the cognate question of slavery extension thoroughly considered at the coming session of Congress, to which end immediate discussion is important.—We say thoroughly *considered*, because we think there is scarcely a remote possibility of its being disposed of. If Congress should adopt the Missouri compromise as applicable to the new territories, it is as certain as anything human can be that the free states will not submit. In what form the opposition to such a decision of the national Legislature will manifest itself, and what consequences it may lead to, we cannot venture to predict; but we cannot be wrong in predicting that the people of the free states—with a very considerable number of those in the new slave-holding states—will resist to the last extremity any measure of national legislation which can have the effect of establishing slavery in territory now free, that belongs or may hereafter belong to the Union.

On the other hand we know, for he has gone very far out of his way to tell us, that if the ordinance of 1787 is applied by Congress to the new territory it will be vetoed by Mr. President Polk. In the one case there will be a veto by the President; in the other a veto by the people. One or the other of these results is sure to follow Congressional action on the subject at the coming session. Therefore we should hope to see only Congressional deliberation, this winter, preparatory to final action by the next Congress, which, we have every reason to believe, will at least be exempt from the certainty or the risk of a Presidential veto. And we hope to see Congressional deliberation now, because it is not at all probable that the subject can be disposed of at one session, but will almost certainly require two, if not more.

The question of slavery extension is distinct, as every body knows, from that of slavery itself—meaning its continued existence of its abolition. Yet there may be a very considerable influence exerted on the former by the discussion of the latter. It is now conceded, on all hands, that, if nothing extraordinary intervenes, the voluntary extinction or rather abandonment of the slave system may be expected, before many years, from some of the now slave states—Maryland and Kentucky almost certainly, Virginia possibly. It is also believed by many that in all the slave states, with the exception perhaps of South Carolina, the tenacity with which owners of slave property cling to the institution is considerably abated. One great step has been gained in the perception, more or less distinct, more or less general, that prosperity is not inseparably connected with slave labor, but rather the reverse. Let this perception become universal, and the other inducements to resist abolition, which have their location in the feelings rather than the judgment, will soon lose their force.—Now it is undeniable that, under all the circumstances of our country, including political institutions, industrial and commercial relations, &c., slavery cannot forever continue profitable to the slave owners on the same soil, or in immediate contiguity with freedom; its aristocratic tendency is alone sufficient to bring inevitable decay upon it as a source of prosperity, while, as a productive agency, it cannot hold its ground against competition with free industry. To be perpetuated it must remove to new soil and new seeds, where free industry does not come to overbear it. The plantation cannot exist in immediate neighborhood with the farm and workshop. Slavery is like the hunter, who recedes before the march of the agriculturist.

Therefore we consider the duration of slavery in this republic likely to be very much dependant on the existence or non-existence of new fields in which it may establish itself. If confined to the regions it now occupies, it will perish before many years, quietly and by general consent. The slaves will eat their masters up—metaphorically. But if New Mexico and California