

son her labors and crown her exertions. We believe no bounty was ever dispersed among us with more earnest and single intent to lighten the burdens of misery and smooth the pillow of suffering.

To many, unfamiliar with the facts, her very large donation to the Fire Department Fund will seem ill-advised if not ostentatious, yet nothing can be further from the truth. The firmness of our City, who are generally poor or in moderate circumstances, are subject to very large exactions of time in an arduous and perilous line of duty, wherein many lose their lives or are disabled for life. The crippled, the widows and orphans, form a very considerable class for whose benefit the Fire Department Fund was instituted and from which many of them are partially relieved or wholly maintained. The Fund is inadequate to its objects, and requires constant efforts for its due replenishment. One of Mr. Laid's first surprises in America was the order, discipline and fine appearance of the large body of firemen who voluntarily formed a square for the protection of the Sacred Music Society from the presence of the crowd at the Bazaar given her on the evening after her arrival in this country. Being informed, in answer to her inquiries, that the firemen of Europe, they served without pay, while their daring and devotedness often subjected them to the most serious calamities and disabilities, she expressed great surprise and admiration, and, when the unexpectedly large sum realized by the sale of tickets for her first concert had determined her to devote her entire position to the relief of the afflicted, she avowed her purpose to tender half of it to the fund of the Fire Department. The representation of friends of the just requirements of other charities induced her to modify this resolve. But her gift to the Fire Department Fund still stands largely in advance of her other donations. But those to the Musical Fund, Home for the Friendless, Orphan Asylums, &c. are still large, and so that the raw night-air gives taken of the coming of Winter, will be peculiarly welcome.

But, says some cynic, why make each parade about an act of bounty? Won't she get all her money back, and more too, through the public admiration of her generosity? Yes, Sir, she will—at least we hope so—and that is an additional reason for speaking well of it. For six thousand years, every generous and philanthropic act of every human being has been abundantly and rarely rewarded. But generous, humane actions are far too few to-day. What is wisely dispensed for others' good always did pay better than the most rapacious avarice. It is a wisdom by which we must realize this truth and act upon it. Have we not been all summer trying to convince our rich men that they can lose nothing but gain by the maintenance of Free Schools? yet a good many of them won't see it. He who knows enough to act in all cases as his own true interest would dictate in winter, the King Solomon and must live on the whole, a more worthy life. Blessed be the dead that teaches men that doing always does and must promote their own interest!

F. S.—Since the above was written, we have learned that Mr. Laid has appropriated the entire net result of her visit to America, however large they may be, to the establishment and maintenance of Free Schools in New York and Sweden. Ought not this to shame those men of wealth in our State, who are laboring to break down our Free School system?—*New York Tribune.*

TO CANADIAN EDITORS IN GENERAL.

Having had intercourse with a respectable class of emigrants who emigrated from Britain this season by way of New York, and of which I have every reason to believe, the Western Line Company from New York to Buffalo has taken an undue advantage, so much so that a quart of boiling water was sold on the wretched canal boats at the rate of 5 cents per quart. And as Buffalo as the innocent people had no written agreement or receipt for money paid at New York, the injustice was carried so far that they would not receive their luggage until their unjust claims were satisfied.

Now to guard against such imposition either by Yankee or Canadian forwarders, I hope that the editors of Newspapers in this Province will be active in ascertaining the regular fare from New York to Buffalo, also from Quebec to the most distant landing places on the upper Lakes, mentioning the amount of fare to the various landing places, and communicate to the editors of newspapers in Britain, that those whom we are anxious to see from our native land will not be taken advantage of, and also to encourage immigration to come by Quebec; because I consider there are such preparations and improvements made by our government on canal boats, it is as convenient and a cheaper route.

JOHN McBRIDE,
Revere Advertiser.

We are pleased to say that universal harmony existed throughout the exhibition.—Drummers were at a discount, and alcohol considerably below par. The weather was delightful, and the visitors, especially the fair sex, were alike beautiful. The town now however has resumed its usual quiet and peaceful aspect, but the exhibition of 1850 will long be looked back to with pleasure by the good people of Niagara. We must not forget to return our humble thanks to all those by whom we were so liberally patronized on this occasion. To the gentlemen who superintended the proceedings of the exhibition the public are much indebted,—their gentlemanly and invaluable services could not be surpassed. On the whole our EXHIBITION has been satisfactorily realized.

For the foregoing account of the proceedings our readers are indebted to our reporter, Mr. J. T. Power, whom we especially engaged for the occasion.—*Niagara Mail.*

VERY IMPORTANT.—WESTERN REFORM CONVENTION.—On Monday a general conference of delegates commissioned from all parts of England to meet in opposition to the duly recognized conference of preachers now assembling in London, was held at Albion Chapel, Moorfields, London. The proceedings were held with open doors, and a large attendance was thus secured. The first question that presented itself for discussion was whether or not the assembled delegates should present themselves to the conference and demand the restoration of the rights which the great body of the people had been unjustly deprived of. It was ultimately resolved that the most dignified course for the delegates to pursue, after an insulting message which had been received from the conference, would be to remain perfectly silent upon the matter. A motion was carried, declaring that the acts of the conference are palpably opposed to the authority of the great head of the Church, at variance with the design and constitution of the early Christian churches, and practically opposed to the genius and spread of Christianity, and that consequently it is no longer desirable to contribute to the system as it now is, or to the support of the preachers, without being partakers of their shame and guilty of their deeds; and the meeting therefore recommended

the immediate withdrawing of all funds as the only remaining practical means of immortalizing the conference. The proceedings are to terminate with a public meeting.—*Continued.*

HURON SIGNAL.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 3, 1850.
THE AGRICULTURAL SHOW.

The Annual Show of the Huron District Agricultural Society took place on Friday last, and it was a most interesting and profitable one. The fact, that in so far as the quality of the stock is concerned, the Exhibition was not an improvement on former years—and as to quantity, there was a sad falling off.—This might perhaps be attributed, in some degree, to the very unfavorable weather, so the day raised almost throughout, but we incline to think that the chief cause is an apathy on the part of our Farmers. It is really lamentable to think that even good farmers—men who possess both the knowledge and the means of being useful as the heralds of Agricultural improvement, should become so wrapped up in a narrow selfishness, as to be incapable of doing good, either to themselves or to their neighbors, who naturally require their example. To think that the "premises" rather than the actual improvement of stock or produce, should be the object of their endeavor, and that they continue members of an Agricultural Society, which is the expectation that their dollar of annual subscription will bring them ten dollars of premiums! We do not insinuate that among our good farmers there are no exceptions to this selfish character—we know there are some—but at the same time, we feel confident that the character is applicable to a much larger number than it should be, and it is not confined to the parent society of the District, but is equally applicable to the members of the Branches. There is a difficulty in securing five pounds out of any one of them, to send to the Provincial Society as an acknowledgment of the interest we feel in the progress of its beneficial results. There is a difficulty in persuading some of them to unite in a Grand District Ploughing Match. There is, in short, a difficulty in obtaining their consent to appropriate any portion of the funds to any purpose, however laudable, beyond their own narrow locality. Now, in fact, there is a difficulty in satisfying them unless the chief premiums be affixed to the particular kind of stock or produce—of which they suppose they have the best specimens, even supposing that should be Rabbits or beehives! "Bring the premiums to my door!" Yes, though it should even be for a deterioration of stock or crop. We hope this extreme selfishness will be shamed out of its possessors, and that the members of Agricultural Societies will adopt some method of accomplishing the real end for which these institutions are established, viz.: Agricultural improvement, and a superior description of Farm Stock, Produce and implements, and will endeavor to prevent the funds from being squandered in premiums for the best, second and third best of numerous classes of animals and articles, which in reality do not come up even to a fourth best!

From these strictures the reader must not suppose that there were no good animals exhibited at Goderich on Friday last. There were a few excellent animals of different kinds, and especially of the horse class. Some of the broad horses and some of the two year olds were even superior. There were also some good specimens of Sheep—some excellent Figs, and two or three very fine Cows and Heifers, but certainly the number was very small in a locality famed as the neighborhood of Goderich for fertility of soil and salubrity of climate. The indoor show was much better than the show of animals, and reflected credit on the thrifty housewife, and the dairymaid. There were also some very good samples of spring wheat, oats and peas shown; and, altogether, the show of grails and domestic manufactures was perhaps not inferior to the average of former years. We must not omit to mention that two or three very handsome and substantial waggons were exhibited on the Market Square, and although we believe this is the first competition of mechanical skill that has taken place under the patronage of the Society, we certainly think that our tradesmen have no cause to be ashamed of their first effort at public competition. A new Reaping Machine lately purchased from the United States by Mr. Blake, farmer, in Goderich Township, was also drawn round the Market Square and attracted much curiosity. This is one of those modern inventions calculated to lessen the drudgery of manual labor, and consequently the interest involved in it is general; but as Mr. Blake's Machine was not exactly in working order, we are unable to judge accurately of its adaptation to the accomplishment of the purpose intended. The introduction, however, of such a machine, is a cheering evidence of the progress and agricultural enterprise of our District, and is worthy of encouragement.

The Society's annual Dinner was held, according to a previous announcement, in the new Brick Hall of the Colborne Inn; and at six o'clock in the evening, about forty gentlemen, Directors of the Society and others, sat down to a dinner table abundantly laden with the excellent delicacies and substantialities of good eating and drinking, prepared and arranged in a style that would have done credit to the best Hotel in the country. In fact, we think that Mr. and Mrs. Ellis by their tasteful and substantial arrangements of the dinner table, and their attentive vigilance for the comfortable accommodation of the guests, faithfully earned the cordial thanks of every man of the party. The evening was spent in harmony and good humor, and ended by some good singing, and the ordinary quantity of speech-making.

NEW LINE OF STAGES.—Our of the most enterprising attempts to improve the condition of Goderich, is a new Line of Stages just started by T. M. Daly, Esq., of Stratford, leaving Galt and Goderich respectively every morning, except Sundays, and completing the journey in good time for allowing the passengers a comfortable night's rest. The Huron Trust, and more especially the hospital of it,

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Communications.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE HURON SIGNAL.
Sir,—It is the duty of every one to take an interest in the education of youth—to expose the evils which may hinder the spreading of knowledge. The Post hath said—
"Ignorance is man's decider,
The betrayer of his trust,
Wisdom is the mighty lever
That must raise him from the dust."
Liberty is fast progressing,
As the sons of men grow wise,
But the thought is still distorting,
Weak they are, and slow they rise.
Yet we'll faint not, men of action!
There is hope of your success,
Every base, dishonest faction,
Fears the tongue, the pen, the press."

I often hear it said that the generality of School Teachers, in this part of the world, are very incompetent for their important duties—that they ought to go to school themselves, instead of spoiling the rising generation by attempting to teach, when they are incompetent for the task. Now, how does it come that the people will allow their Schools to be taught by inferior Teachers? There are only two reasons for it. Either the people do not care whether their children get good education or not, or they will not give a salary that will insure the services of a competent Teacher. I can see no other reason.—The Trustees (acting for the people) have it in their power to engage the Teacher, and if they would offer a competent salary, there is no doubt but they would get a competent Teacher. But instead of offering a fair remuneration to the laborious doer, they take the least! And screw him down to the lowest point. By doing so, the superior Teacher gets disgusted, and goes into some other business; but the inferior Teacher takes the inferior salary, gives his inferior services,—keeps the rising generation inferior all their lives, and of course, oblige the next—all this done by the inferior Teacher. Inferior they must be, for where you find a School Session blessed with a good Teacher, you will likewise find the Trustees to be superior, sound, intelligent men; they offer a fair salary, and have always a good Teacher.

A few months ago I was present at the engagement of a Teacher. The Trustees were natives of Scotland, and seemed to retain the national character of driving a hard bargain, as you will presently hear. The 1st Trustee commenced as he had been at Goderich cattle show buying a two year old steer.
Noe Mr. T. has little well you tak for a year's teaching.
Mr. T.—Well Gentlemen, I have been half a year on trial,—you are all pleased with my teaching. The parents and guardians are all satisfied, the children are all fond of the School, they now think it a pleasure to learn, where they formerly had to be forced to it; the average attendance of pupils is one half more now than when I came, taking all things into consideration, you will surely allow that £50 is not out of the way.
In vain the Teacher exclaimed the forwarders of wisdom, with the utmost surprise. Then the first Trustee looking exactly at the Teacher said, "Yes! surely jokin', Mr. T."
Second Trustee—"He canna be in earnest, surely."
Third Trustee—"I was thinking take a good a-bout £45, since he has brought on the weans so well, but £50's clean out 'o the question."
First Trustee—"I'll tell you, Mr. T. I'll vote you £50, but no a hopeny, ma! That's ma! I see I eod get for my wark, ma! I work a fine deal harder than you."

In vain the Teacher showed that they could not do his work at any price. They stuck to the £50. Owing to pecuniary circumstances, he was obliged to take it. But his contentance plainly said—that shall only be for a season. Here is a Trustee appointed that has a Teacher possessing qualifications peculiarly adapted to the training of youth. And yet they will not keep him. He will take the first opportunity to better his condition. It will be three or six months before another Teacher can be got, and he will very likely be an inferior one; but if not, he will have another month of teaching, it will be four or five months more before all the children get into his method, which will be, at least six months lost. In vain the Teacher showed that they could not do his work at any price. They stuck to the £50. Owing to pecuniary circumstances, he was obliged to take it. But his contentance plainly said—that shall only be for a season. 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