buelph Evening Mercury WEDNESDAY EV'G. APRIL 8, 1868 THE LATE HON. THOS. D'ARCY

The public mind has not yet recovered from the shock it received by the intelligence that the Hon. Thomas D. McGee was shot dead on Tuesday menning by an unknown assassin.merning by an unknown assassin.— The news was so startling, the crime was so awful, and the results of the marderer's aim so instantaneous and fatal, that men were horror-struck when they read the details. They knew that the gifted deceased had many ecemies; that the ontspoken logalty of his later years; that his noble and soul-stirring appeals to our patriotism; that his fiery denunciations of those who sought to wrest the Throne from its foundations, and sap the loyalty of those who upheld it, had drawn upon him the deep and malignant hatred of many. But who for a moment dreamt that the vengeance of one or more of these men would be wreaked on their victim by such a cold-blooded murder ? Yet so it is. Here, in a peaceable country, where the law is respected and obeyed, the assassin, in the dead of night stealthily dogged his unsuspecting victim, and on the threshold of his temporary home shot him dead. We have no language strong enough to execute such a dark and bloody deed, and we earnestly hope that the efforts of the Government and the Police autherities will bring to light the cow ardly assassin whose hand has depriv-ed the household of a loving husband and father, the Parliament of the Dominion of a talented and eloquent member, the country of one of her most gifted sons, and the crown of a loyal subject. Before the earth covers all that remains of Thomas D. McGee, let us draw a brief sketch of his somewhat chequered career.

Mr. McGee was the second son of the late James McGee, of Wexford, Ireland, and was born at Carlingford in the county of Louth, on the 13th of April, 1825, so that had he lived a few days longer he would have been forty-three years of age. His mother, whose maiden name was Dorcas Morgan-a woman of fine sensibilities and poetic feelings-was early removed from him by death, but he ever enter tained for her feelings of tender and enthusiastic admiration. When only enteen years of age, Mr McGe left Ireland for the United States, and took up his abode in Boston. Here in the New England capital, and in the very heart of the literary and scientific world of America, he acquired and fostered these tastes for literary pursuits and studies which, in afte years, so delighted all who heard him He also at this time made his mark as a public speaker-in which vocation he was by-and-bye to earn his proudest laurels. He remained in Bosto till 1845, when he returned to Dublin having received a handsome offer from the proprietors of the Freeman's Jour-mal, in consequence of an article of his which had appeared in a Boston news paper, which attracted the attention of Daniel O'Connell. Thus commenced his connection with the press, and thus was he led to participate in the Irish politics of the eventful years which then began and ended in the foolish and short-lived rising of 1848. Ardent by temperament and enthusi astic by disposition, it was impossible for Mr McGee to keep within the bounds of moral force which O'Con nell had prescribed. He became one of the leading spirits of the "Young Ireland" party, and hurried on an incipient revolution which could not be expected to end in any other way than it did-total disaster to all concerned. nection as a people with the Home While some of the leaders were sent into penal exile, McGee along with of Fenianism, and his voice was often

a which he had taken up his about His public career in Canada now fairly ed, and since then it is atter of history with which our read rs are quite familiar. He opposed e government when he first entered Parliament, and continued in oppor tion till 1862, when the Oartier-Mac Ionald administration fell. Imme liately after, when the Macdonald otte government was formed, h as offered and accepted the office of President of the Council. In the

to Mary Jane, eld

Guelph, April 8th.

Morriston, April 8.

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Clifford, April 8.

year following, when Mr. Sandfield McDonald reconstructed his govern-ment, and took in Mr. Dorion, Mr. McGee was left out; and again wend into opposition. The McDonald Dorion government was defeated in the spring following, and the late Sin E. P. Tache then formed an adminis-tration with Mr. McGee as Minister of Agriculture. He continued to fill this office during the existence of the Coalition government, and last July when Confederation took effect, and construction of the government too place, he retired to make room for a member from the Lower Provinces Of the scenes and occurrences in Montreal at the last election, and Mr. MeGee's career in and out of Parlia nent subsequent to that, it is needle o recall, as they must be fresh in the ollection of the reader.

Mr. McGee was never in the proper ense of the word a politician, nor did he possess in any great degree those qualities which make a laborious nd efficient executive officer. He was always very successful as a deater, but he never could tolerate se nice distinctions and quibble which men of smaller minds delight o indulge in. But give him a subject which intimately concerned the hap piness or prosperity of the people, or which involved the future destiny of our country, and he treated it with a breadth and catholicity of spirit united with cogent arguments and elicity of language which carried coniction to every mind. He was always

reat when he was dealing with great uestions, and though a man of strong onvictions yet he was most toleran nd forbearing to a sincere and honorble opponent, though he sometime ashed with merciless severity thos with whom he was at open warfare in his later years he amply atone or the harsh language of his youth and the full and ample confession o is errors is the best indication of his incerity. He was not only a states nan and an orator-as a lecturer he was possessed of no ordinary gifts, and as an author he has taken a respectable place in the long list of literary celeb rities. His range of subjects as a lecurer was very extensive, and his ower of analysis, his beauty of language, his nice discrimination, his genial humour, and above all his sym bathy with genius and talent in what ver sphere of life the possessor o these were found, gave a charm to his lectures which none but those who eard them can appreciate.

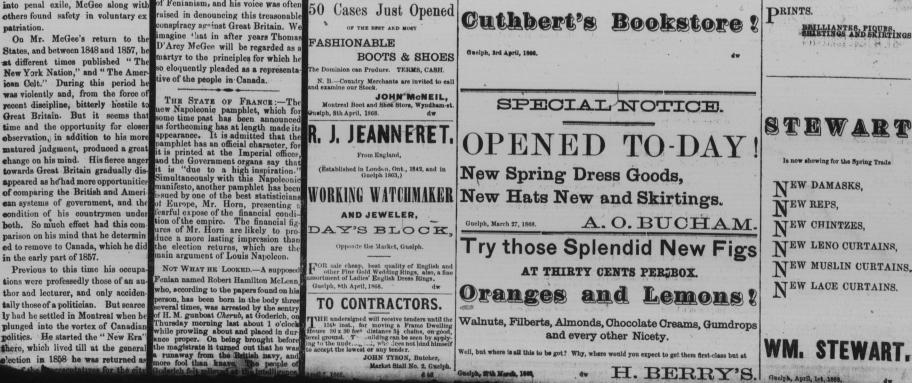
If there is one question more that nother with which Mr McGee has dentified his name, that question wa he union of all the Provinces, and as nnected with, and inseparable from it. the question of national defence, of he Intercolonial Railway, and of fre Intercolonial trade. He desired, by neans of confederation, to bring abou he intimate union of all the British American Provinces He desired by policy of conciliation to bring abou the fusion of various races, and thus to supplement the law which shall create a new nation with a policy that shall create a new nationality. His work is ow done. We only echo the iniversal opinion when we express on elie! that he has fallen a victim to the hate engendered against him for his advocacy for our continued con

STILL THEY COME

April 8.



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