

Provincial.

LIBERAL TYRANNY.—The Grand Jury of the metropolitan county of York, adopted an address to the Governor General last week on the subject of the Seat of Government. A committee of their number waited on his Excellency with a copy of the address, to know when he would receive the grand jury with it. The answer given was that the Governor would let them know between that time and Tuesday. Day after day passed without any intimation from the Governor, and on Tuesday, absent jurors had come into town from the country, in order to join their fellows in presenting the address at Government House. But, to their astonishment, instead of an intimation that they would be received, that immaculate statesman, Attorney-General Baldwin, had the assurance to challenge the foreman to show him a precedent for such an address, and on his doing so, that the Governor would receive them with it! The foreman was too ready for "sleepy Bob," and he was out with his precedent at once, which happened to refer to a time when Lord Elgin was fishing for addresses, and not as at present, endeavoring to suppress any solitary attempt to approach him. The instance quoted by the Foreman was the occasion of Lord Elgin's arrival here, when the grand jury then sitting (of which Mr McGrath, the present Foreman was a member,) presented His Excellency with a congratulatory address, which he was too glad to receive, without seeking for precedents. The present tyrants in power have much to learn yet, and Lord Elgin is scarcely an exception. If His Excellency happens to be better informed than those by whom he is surrounded, he is the more culpable for submitting to ignorant dictation. It is the right of the most humble subject to address the throne. It is equally the right of the grand jury to address the throne, on any subject affecting the welfare of the country, more particularly of the county to which they belong. Such has been the practice heretofore in Canada, and such has also been the practice in the mother country of which we have seen an example recently in Ireland. It remained for Robert Baldwin, the so-called Canadian Liberal, to question, for the first time, its legality or constitutionality, and he has got laughed at for his pains. Wherever ignorance predominates, however artfully it may be concealed, it will ooze out occasionally, in spite of all attempts to hide it. Baldwin's assistant keeper, happening to be in Washington at the time, was sent for express, but, before he arrived, the ignorant exposure was made, and the tyrannical act attempted. It has since been arranged, and intimation made, that the Governor General will receive the Grand Jury with their address, at 2 P. M. tomorrow. We hope, after all the fuss and exposure, that the answer will be straightforward and to the purpose, without evasion, equivocation, or mental reservation. There are parties on the Grand Jury who got rather rough handling by implication, on a former occasion, having been in some way regarded as "the foes of the liberties of the people." The present is a good opportunity to make amends for that slip, and "cry quits."—Colonist, of 31st ult.

[The annexed are the Address and Reply, by which it will be learned that the almost immediate removal of the Seat of Government from Toronto is definitely settled. This is all right—the people will wake up by-and-by.—ED. HERALD.]

ADDRESS.

To His Excellency the Right Honorable the Earl of Elgin and Kincardine, Governor General of British North America, &c., &c., &c.

May it Please Your Excellency,—

We, the Foreman and Grand Jurors of the County of York, now in Session assembled, would take leave to approach your Excellency, to present the renewed assurance of our fervent attachment to the person and Government of our Most Gracious Sovereign. We would also express the sincere respect we feel for your Excellency and for the Countess of Elgin and family, and the satisfaction we have derived from your residence in this part of the Province.

We have heard with deep regret, that it is intended to remove the Seat of Government from Toronto to Quebec, in the course of the present year.

We would respectfully represent to your Excellency that by the Resolutions of the House of Assembly, it was recommended that the Seat of Government should be held for a period not exceeding four years, alternately in Toronto and Quebec, instead of this being carried out, it is now proposed to subject the Province to the heavy charges of a second removal within two years, involving, in our opinion, an unnecessary expenditure of the public money, and an act of injustice to Upper Canada.

We are aware that the right of fixing the Seat of Government rests with your Excellency, and not with the other branches of the Legislature, and we only refer to the resolutions of the House of Assembly, as appearing to be most consistent with justice to both sections of the Province.—We would therefore respectfully, but earnestly, submit to your Excellency to consider the propriety of now carrying out the Resolutions of the House of Assembly, to their fullest extent, and in their true spirit.

All which is most respectfully submitted. His Excellency was pleased to make the following

ANSWER.

Gentlemen—It gives me much pleasure to receive the renewed assurance of your loyalty to our Gracious Queen, and I accept with gratitude your expressions of regard for myself and my family.

I can, with all sincerity, affirm that our sojourn in Toronto has been in every respect most agreeable to us personally. I believe, moreover, that the best interests

of the Province have been promoted by the meeting of the Legislature in this place, and by the kindly feelings to which this arrangement has given rise. I need hardly observe that the orderly and courteous demeanor of the Citizens of Toronto have contributed largely to this result.—It is an undoubted fact that at this moment the credit of the Province stands higher than it has done at any time since the Union.

As regards the allusion contained in your Address to the projected removal of the Seat of Government to Quebec, I desire in the first place to remark that I observe with satisfaction that you refer with respect to the Prerogative of the Crown. I may remind you, however, that under our system of Constitutional Government this Prerogative is not exercised arbitrarily, but on the advice of Ministers responsible to Parliament, and influenced in tendering it by broad considerations of public advantage.

I have therefore to state in reply to the inquiries which you have addressed to me on this point, that when the Government determined to act on the address of the Legislative Assembly in favor of alternating Parliaments, it was resolved, as the least objectionable mode of carrying out the desired object, that the Seat of Government should be fixed for two years only at the place to which it might first be moved. Efforts were made to induce the Government to proceed on this understanding in the first instance to Quebec.—When Toronto was preferred, the intention of the Government on this point was stated in a communication to the Mayor of Quebec, which was published at the time. The arrangements entered into with individuals for providing the necessary accommodation for Government in Toronto, were framed on the same understanding, and precedents took place in Parliament last session with the view of giving effect to it. Under these circumstances, I apprehend that the Government could not depart from its declared intention, without injustice to those who have been led to calculate on its fulfillment. It is obviously indispensable to the success of a scheme, which, although it be open to many plausible objections, was adopted by Parliament from motives of conciliation, and out of special regard for the claims of the two ancient capitals of Toronto and Quebec, that those who are responsible for carrying out its details should act in the most entire good faith.

The regret which I feel at the prospect of soon leaving you is mitigated by the reflection that the constant and steady advance in wealth and population which Toronto has made during many past years, and the advantages which it enjoys above other towns in Upper Canada in being the place where the Courts of Law are held, and many important Provincial Institutions located, afford every reasonable security that the temporary withdrawal of the Seat of Government will not sensibly affect its prosperity.

INQUEST.—An inquest was held yesterday in the house of Mr John Watkins, a very respectable person, Richmond St. on view of the body of one of his daughters, a young woman between 17 and 18 years of age. It appeared from evidence that deceased had on Monday sent a younger sister to an apothecary's in Queen Street, for some laudanum, and stated to her that she was to use it to dye some things. Nothing further was known of the affair until yesterday morning when deceased became alarmingly ill. Her appearance indicated that poison had been taken. The stomach pump was applied and laudanum extracted. The jury returned a verdict. "Died from having taken a dose of laudanum while laboring under temporary insanity."—Globe.

THE POST OFFICE.—We are authorized to state, that a despatch has been received from the Imperial Government, communicating to His Excellency the Governor General, her Majesty's Assent in Council, to the Post Office Act passed by the Canadian Legislature, at its last Session. There is every reason to believe that the new arrangement will soon go into operation. We heartily congratulate the country on this good news; many ameliorations have of late years been effected by the progress of enlightened Reform, but not one carried with it more true social comfort to the masses than Cheap Postage—and Cheap Postage we shall now have.—Ib.

HORRIBLE MURDER AND SUICIDE.—We learn by Telegraph last night from Roxburgh that the most horrid case of murder and suicide that ever occurred there, took place in the town of Penfield, about eight miles from that city. The circumstances, as we received them, are as follows:—A Miss Sharp was attending her sister Mrs Campbell, who was ill, at her residence, about 2 1/2 miles from the house of Mr Everts, the murderer. About 6 o'clock last evening, Miss Sharp went out of Campbell's house and had been absent but two minutes before a noise was heard which caused Campbell and a young man in the house to rush out. About ten feet from the door, Miss Sharp lay on the ground with her throat cut from ear to ear in the agonies of death, and near her lay Everts in nearly the same situation, with a bloody knife beside him. Both the girl and her suicide brother-in-law expired on the spot. Everts was a man of industrious habits and good reputation, he leaves a wife and 6 children.

CURLING IN SCOTLAND.—A game came off on the pond at Eglinton Castle, on the 20th inst., between eight players belonging to Kilwinning, headed by the Earl of Eglinton, against eight picked players, backed by C. D. Gardiner, Esq., Commissioner to the Earl of Eglinton—the players belonging to Dundonald parish. After a keen contest for four hours, the Kilwinning curlers were declared the victors by 35 shots—the Earl's rink being 44 shots to their opponent's 9. The play of the noble Earl was greatly admired by the

onlookers. One shot deserves to be recorded:—His Lordship's opponents were lying two shots, apparently safely guarded, when his Lordship was directed to draw a narrow port, which he did, catching the winner at an angle, chipping out both the winning stones, and lying six for his own side—making, in one shot, a difference of eight at one end.—Ayr Obs.

The magnificent medal given by the Royal Caledonian Curling Club of Scotland, was contested for by the members of the Montreal Club on Saturday last, and won by J. Gilmour, Esq.—Transcript.

GUELPH HERALD.
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 1851.
WATERLOO COUNTY COUNCIL.
(Continued from our last.)

Jan. 28, 1851.

The Warden having read a letter from Mr A. Stephens, one of the Auditors, it was, on motion of Mr E. Snider, seconded by Mr Cockburn, Resolved, that the Auditors be called before this Council, to explain the reason why the receipts and expenditure of the County were not audited in terms of the report of the Finance Committee in December last.

On motion of Mr Lunn, seconded by Mr Valentine, a committee was appointed, consisting of Messrs Cockburn, Ellis, Carney, and the mover and second, to draft a form of a By-law for the guidance of Township Councils in framing regulations for Taverns; which By-law was afterwards brought in and passed.

The Warden read the Annual Report of the Elora and Saugeen Road Company, along with a Memorial from the President of said Company.

On motion of Mr Carney, seconded by Mr Lunn, the position from the Elora Road Company was referred to a special committee, consisting of Messrs Cockburn, Armstrong, Pasmore, Elias Snider, and Valentine, who were instructed to confer with the President and Secretary, on behalf of the Directors of said Company, as to the amount of money that may be required to complete said road, and the nature of the security to be offered to the county for any advance made to said Company.

On motion of Mr Valentine, seconded by Mr Lunn, the same committee was appointed to confer with the Directors of the Guelph and Arthur Road Company for the same purpose.

The Auditors appeared before the Council, and explained with reference to the accounts for 1849.

On motion of Mr Cameron, seconded by Mr Armstrong, the matter at issue in the Auditors' Account for 1849 was referred to the Finance Committee, and the Auditors instructed to be prepared to give evidence when required. The letter from Mr A. Stephens was also referred to the Finance Committee.

On motion of Mr Armstrong, seconded by Mr Meyer, Messrs Thurllet and Pasmore were appointed Directors for the Guelph and Arthur Road to Card's Corner for the current year.

On motion of Mr Carney, seconded by Mr Lunn, the consideration of the Insurance of the Court House was referred to the Finance Committee.

The Council then adjourned.

Jan. 29.

Moved by Mr Cockburn, seconded by Mr McBean, That this Council having agreed to issue debentures to the amount of £1500, to the credit of the township of Erin, payable in three instalments of five, ten, and fifteen years, that this Council shall pay the interest upon £500 of said debentures for the first five years.—Lost.

Moved in amendment by Mr Carney, seconded by Mr Willoughby, That this Council view the endorsement for the township of Erin of £1500 as an indulgence, and that asking the Council to pay any interest is an intrusion upon the rights of the other townships; and that therefore, while there is no objection to endorse to the amount required, yet that the township of Erin must pay the whole interest on said loan, and give security to the County to that effect.—Carried.

The names were ordered to be taken down.

For the Motion—Messrs Lunn, Donaldson, Valentine, Clarke, McBean, S. Smith, J. Hawk, Cockburn, Pasmore, O'Callaghan, Wilson, and Hollinshead.—12. The three last declined voting, but were counted for the motion.

For the Amendment—Messrs Carney, Cameron, A. Smith, Willoughby, Watson, Halliday, Ellis, Brown, Robertson, Kainer, E. Snider, H. Snider, Meyer, G. Hawk, and Armstrong.—15.

This unique motion brought on a debate of some length, Mr Carney opposing such an unprecedented appropriation of the County funds with his usual ability. That the new road from the Lake shore to Fergus will prove largely detrimental to the trade of Guelph, there can be no doubt. It was hard enough for the Councilors representing the interests of this locality and of the Brock Road to have to coincide in the loan of last session; but that any of these gentlemen should be found desirous of taxing their constituents to pay the interest on such a loan, is an act so suicidal, so passing strange, that we think it but right the electors should know who have so acted. Had the motion been carried, it had formed a precedent for endless applications of the same description. Of course, no one can blame the Councilors from Erin, and other localities to be benefited by such unwarranted liberality, for being willing to take all they could get; while Mr Carney as obviously merits the best thanks of the electors of Guelph for his resolute opposition to the grant.

The Clerk read a Report from the Directors of the Guelph and Dundas Road Company, which was ordered to be laid on the table.

Mr Carney presented a Petition from certain inhabitants of Sydenham, praying the Council to assume a certain part of the Garafra Road in the vicinity of that village, which was laid on the table.

Mr Cameron brought up the Report of the Education Committee.

[To be concluded in our next.]

MEETING OF TOWN COUNCIL.
COURT HOUSE, JAN. 31, 1851.

The Council met, pursuant to adjournment—the Reeve in the chair. All the Councilors were present.

On motion of Mr Thorp, seconded by Mr Hubbard, the By-law relating to the Assessment Act

was read a first and second time, and subsequently passed.

On motion of Mr Thorp, seconded by Mr Hubbard, Mr Nichols was appointed Pound-keeper for the Town of Guelph for the current year.

The Reeve appointed Mr Wm Nevee Auditor for the current year.

On motion of Mr Hubbard, seconded by Mr Thorp, Mr Edwin Newton was appointed Auditor for the current year.

On motion of Mr Stevenson, seconded by Mr Carroll, the following gentlemen were appointed a "Court of Revision" for the Town of Guelph for the current year:—Messrs A. Baker, David Allan, Thos. Sandilands, John Smith, and Geo. Sunley.

The Council then adjourned till the second Monday in February.

* There cannot be a doubt but that, according to the Act, the Council de themselves form the Court of Revision; so that the above delegation of their powers to other parties is illegal. We have noticed no such appointment by any other Town or Township Municipality.—ED. HERALD.

GUELPH TOWNSHIP COUNCIL.—The Township Council met in Blyth's Tavern on Saturday last, when R. F. Budd, Esq. was elected Township Clerk—Mr Anthony Stephens being again an unsuccessful candidate; Mr Crowe Collector, and Messrs Edw. Harland and Arch. McCorkindale Assessors. The greater part of the day was occupied in the selection of Overseers of Highways.

FARMERS' & MECHANICS' INSTITUTE.

On Friday Evening, the Rev. J. G. Macgregor, delivered the seventh lecture of the season in the Temperance Hall—the subject "Philosophical Attraction." The Rev. gentlemen arranged the subject under the heads of Attraction of Gravitation, Attraction of Cohesion, Attraction of Combination or Chemical Attraction, Capillary Attraction, Magnetic and Electrical Attractions—expounding and illustrating the four first divisions in a style at once popular and scientific. C. J. Mickle, Esq. in the chair; and, on the motion of Dr. Liddell, seconded by Mr. Harrison, the thanks of the meeting were given to the lecturer.

The Rev. J. Spencer will deliver the next lecture—on Galvanism—on Friday first, at half-past seven, a. m., in the Temperance Hall.

The Library of the Institute is now open daily from 11 to 3 o'clock, and on Tuesday and Friday Evenings from 7 to 9, at the reduced subscription of 5s. per annum for adults, young persons 2s. 6d.

LIFE AT THE DIGGINGS.

The following extract from a letter recently received from a relative of the Editor of the Herald, although containing little of moment, may yet be interesting, as descriptive of the life led by the gold diggers, and which would appear to be quite as exciting as comfortable.

MY DEAR —

I have recently received 18 Numbers of the Herald, in one of which I perceive you have published extracts from my letter of 1st March. I will proceed to give you a brief narrative of my wanderings since that date. I left San Francisco on the 2nd March in the Eliza W. for Stockton—fare \$10 and "eat yourself," as Paddy says.—There were five-and-twenty passengers, and we were allowed 100 lbs of luggage each; some indeed had not 10 lbs; but as the craft was only 20 feet in length by 10 feet beam, and took six days to make the passage, you may imagine how comfortable we were under such circumstances.—Our party stopped one day in Stockton—then consisting of only four or five horses, now fully as large as Guelph—proceeding on the following morning for the diggings. We hired a team of 6 yoke of oxen to take us up to Saint Antonio, 85 miles higher, for which we paid at the rate of \$30 per cow. The first three days we only made 25 miles, when we brought up on the bank of the Callaveras, which was found to be much swollen to permit our passing. After a delay of 9 days we got over, and were 3 days longer in reaching the second crossing, 25-miles higher, where we ascended we were likely to be detained by the same cause for another fortnight. We found here about 100 men who had been working in the gulches all winter—a good many of them had done well, averaging about \$1000 each. As there was no getting further in the meantime, we ran about for some 14 days, picking up what we could find, but didn't clear \$2 a day. At last we struck into a place close on the river, where we worked until the 1st July, averaging about half an ounce per diem each. This, you will think, was doing well. I thought so at the time, but others of the party were of a different opinion, and, resolved to get rich all at once, set off in search of better diggings; but I believe some who then parted company have not yet discovered the object of their search, and would now be glad of such a chance as they then neglected. Having picked what was to be got by the river, we went prospecting all round about for a fortnight, but could find no place that would yield over \$3 a day, which won't pay in California; so we bought us a pair of burros (asses.) I packed our cradle, tent and provisions on them, and took the trail for Murphy's Flat, where it was said they were taking it out by the pound. We stopped within two miles of Murphy's, at a place called Douglas's Flat, where most of the hands were doing well, that is, they were making their half ounce a day. The diggings here were from 10 to 20 feet deep, and the soil the hardest I have ever met with. Four of us were three days in getting down to the rock, breaking two pick-axes in the operation, an awful affliction under the circumstances. The succeeding day we washed out the whole of the bottom, and only got \$10. As this wouldn't pay, it was resolved to quit. I was against doing so, and we had a few words, the others eventually agreeing to give it another trial. So at it we went, one hand on each of the four sides of the hole carting; you can't find that word in the dictionary? Well, I'll just tell you what it means. Caroty is the name of an animal pretty common here, as big as a good-sized dog, half dog, half fox, with a spine of the wolf thrown in. They burrow under ground like a fox, but run their holes a great deal farther into the earth, horizontally. After the same fashion, when the miners get down to the rock, if there is no water, they commence a series of arches or culverts, working them from one to twenty feet along the ledge. The first painful we got \$8. We took out 6 oz that night, and the next day 2 lbs, in all 4 lbs 5 oz in six days. We sunk four more holes on the same flat, but none of them paid. We then went over to Murphy's Flat, and sunk a couple of holes 15 feet deep, and 8 by 10 feet wide. We couldn't get further down for

water. There were several parties working near us, some of them at a cost of 7 oz a day, and at this time none of them had reached the rock; so we left and returned to Douglas's Flat, where we next day commenced another hole. We now heard they had struck gold at Carson's Creek, a few miles distant. I had a notion to look at the place, but could get none of the party to go over with me; they all said it was no use; so I shouldered my pick, pan, shovel, and blanket, and started on my own hook. The distance was but 9 miles, and I picked up a companion by the way. We met about a hundred men returning from Carson's, and were told it was no use going, as the gold was all gathered. We kept on, however, and got to the Creek in the afternoon; went all over, but didn't see a spot where we thought we could risk sinking a hole. That night we met with three men who told us there were about two hundred Spaniards (Mexicans?) working on a small flat down the creek; so we agreed to go down altogether in the morning. We set out at 4 a. m., and about a mile down found over a dozen promising spots for a start. We selected what we thought the best, and "staked out" our ground. There were five Italians working in front of us, and three Spaniards a head of them. We got down by noon, and took out 8 oz, in the afternoon we took out a pound. About noon the Revenue Collector came round, when the Spaniards and other foreigners cleared, but we citizens had nothing to fear. The Collector asked me if the hole in front of us was good for anything—I said it was. "Then throw out the tools," says he, "and take possession." We didn't require to be twice told, as there was only about two feet to work. We took out 31 oz in four days, and another party of three along side of us took out 5 lbs 4 oz in five days, and that was the last of it. We commenced on a Saturday morning; that night either the Italians or the Mexicans worked a good piece of our ground, taking out, as was supposed, 10 or 12 oz. The next day—Sunday—about a dozen Italians came down armed to the teeth, and tried to drive us out. One of them jumped into the hole a top of me, and we had a set to; however I managed to give him a small pat over the back with a crow bar and he zampozed. We were all alone, and had only one six-shooter in the party; and hearing that the Italians were trying to get the Spaniards to help them—we wouldn't have been half a mouthful to each—we sent up to the camp for a supply of arms. In less than no time down came 50 fellows well armed, and the foreigners cut stick in a twinkling. Our friends left us about a dozen Colt's six-shooters, for our protection, but the enemy returned no more. In course of the following day there were over four hundred holes sunk all around us, but only one of them paid.—Since then I have wandered about a good deal without finding much metal. Indeed I have been pretty well over all the Southern mines, and found them all much alike. Some parties do well, others only middling; but the majority don't make more than keeps them clear. Some come up here and do well, while others have to beg their way back. So you will perceive it's all a lottery.

Murders are quite common all over the mining district. I had to lay all summer with my rifle by my side, and pistols and bowie knives stowed away under the blanket. I have had two pretty narrow escapes, and seen some hard sights.—Crossing over to Murphy's one morning before day-light, I was the first to reach the flat; the next person that came across found the bodies of two Mexicans wrapped up in their blankets about 6 feet off the trail, their brains punched out with a crowbar; an American and a Mexican, their companions, were supposed to have done the deed; the American even left his rifle in his flight.—There was a Doctor shot at on another trail ten or fifteen minutes after I passed the spot; he was well mounted and escaped; I was on foot, and had to return by the same route, but met with no interruption. I carry a good rifle and no money, so there's nothing to be gained by shooting at me, and a little risk besides. Our small party are now at the second crossing of the Callaveras, where we intend wintering. We have built us a good house, and laid in a stock of provisions, and are on the whole pretty comfortably situated. Until recently I haven't slept in a bed for twelve months, not even the luxury of a soft plank, or a poll to rest on; just roll yourself up in your blanket, see that your rifle's within reach, and drop off to the tune of

"In the days when we went gipsying
Long time ago!"

Maybe it don't feel nice to lay in a fine warm comfortable bed, wake up, hear the rain pattering on the shingles, pity the poor hombres afloat in their tents, roll round and go to sleep again. We don't expect to make more than our board and other expenses during winter. I don't exactly know what I shall get in spring, but I think I have done mining. Three or four of us have applied to Government for a license to build a bridge at the second crossing of the Callaveras; if we get the grant I shall likely afterwards go a trading; besides ours, however, three other applications besides ours. I enclose two small pieces of gold—at \$16 per oz, they are worth 40 cents—by which you may judge of the size of the dust. In the river and gulches, or small creeks, it is mostly like the enclosed; the average size, however, in the diggings is from a cent to a half. You will of course want to hear something of the big lumps. A piece was found herabouts weighing 90 lbs. I have seen a piece taken out at Carson's Creek 18 lbs, and have known a party receive \$140 a day each. One company of 20 hands took out 120 lbs in one day; but mind, these are solitary instances. If I haven't had the luck of some, I have done better than the great majority.

NOTICE TO CORRESPONDENTS.

"We may however, once more observe, that we have never, in any observations made upon this subject, sought to injure the cause of Temperance. We have strongly condemned the lack of honor and good faith shown by two or three parties connected with the temperance body in this town, during the past few weeks; but have never in any way spoken against the cause. It is with the sincerest pleasure we see its success in gaining to its ranks, men like the Editor of the Herald, who, having spent the prime of their days grovelling in the dust at the shrine of Bacchus, and who having ruined their fortunes and broken their constitution in the service of the "jolly god," are happily awakened to a sense of their position, and show a disposition to escape from it, ere they go down with their grey hairs in sorrow to the grave, bearing a drunkard's name—"unwept, unhonored, and unused."

We have received several communications in reference to the above statement in last number of the Advertiser. It is a fact known to not a few persons in Guelph, and to hundreds in the adjoining townships, that the Editor of the Herald has been of abstemious habits from childhood.

We believe we may safely say that, during a period of fifty years, we have not in the aggregate drunk a gallon of ardent spirits in any shape. We cannot remember ever having had five minutes' illness consequent on the use of alcoholic stimulants; and we believe we may add, without being deemed guilty of self-laudation, that it has cost us ten times the amount in helping onward the cause of Temperance, we have ever spent in spirituous liquors.

Under such circumstances, the malice prepense of the Advertiser's attack on our character and pecuniary resources is sufficiently obvious; and, however reluctantly, we have, in compliance with the urgent request of many gentlemen whose good opinion we value, taken the necessary steps for giving the Editor of the Advertiser an opportunity to prove his allegations before a jury.—Several communications in reference to this affair have in consequence been handed over to our legal adviser, to be produced in due season.

CURLING.

We learn from the Reporter that the Paris Club, which had challenged the Province, were beat by the Galt Curlers on Friday last, 83 to 74 shots—three out of the four Galt rinks having each a majority over its opponent.

Two rinks of the Guelph Club played yesterday afternoon, when Mr James Ferguson's rink beat Mr. Hodgert's 21 to 12 shots.

MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS.—SYDENHAM.—Messrs. Thomas Lunn, John Goodall, Caleb Morden, Harris Knight, and Adam Campbell.

FIRE IN ARTHUR.—On the night of Friday last, the School-house, Section No. 1, in Arthur, was burnt to the ground. The fire is supposed to have been occasioned by the teacher putting ashes in which were some live coals on the boarded floor, and leaving them there, by means of which the flooring became ignited, and the house was burnt down. We think the affair requires investigation.

□ We would direct attention to the article from the North American on our first page, we will find room for some remarks on the same subject in our next.

REPORT OF THE FARMERS' AND MECHANICS' INSTITUTE.

In presenting this, the first Annual Report of the Farmers' and Mechanics' Institute, your Committee have much pleasure in advertising to the progress already made in realizing the objects contemplated by the Society, as an incentive to still more vigorous exertion for the accomplishment of what yet remains to be effected.

Immediately on assuming office, your Committee rented a suitable apartment in a central situation, and fitted it up as a Library and Reading Room, in which the books received from the Guelph Circulating Library were arranged and to which a number of recent and valuable publications have since been added, amounting in the aggregate to 404 volumes. The Art Journal, the Quarterly, Blackwoods, and other Magazines are also regularly received. Your Committee have much pleasure in acknowledging receipt of "The British Poets," and several Parliamentary reports, from A. J. Ferguson, Esq.; "The Pictorial History of England," from W. D. Powell, Esq.; Napier's "Peninsular War," from John McLean, Esq.; and of several volumes from the Rev. R. Torrance, Dr. Liddell, and Mr P. Gow. Hitherto the library has only been open three evenings in the week, which has been the occasion of considerable inconvenience to the subscribers; your Committee anticipate that a better arrangement will be effected for the future.

As the Association only commenced operations at midwinter, it was not possible to provide a regular series of Lectures during last season. The Society are, however, under obligations to the Rev. J. Spencer for several excellent lectures on Chemistry. It is anticipated that a regular series will be delivered by several gentlemen weekly during the present season.

The number of members last year amounted to 110. Your Committee have reason to believe that a diminution of the rate of subscription, and the keeping of the library open for several hours each day, would largely increase the list.

The property of the Institute is all in good order, and your Committee submit the following statement of the finances, by which it will be seen that a balance of £7 4s. 6d. remains at the credit of the Society.

FARMERS' & MECHANICS' INSTITUTE
In Account with A. Macdonald, Secretary.

Dr.	£ s. d.
1850.—To cash paid,	
Feb. 6—Armour & Co., for Books.	3 5 3
" "Anson Green, do.	6 9 2
" "Package and carriage to Hamilton.	0 3 9
" " " " " "	0 3 9
" 14—Helliwell & Co. for Books.	0 16 3
" " " " " "	0 13 1 1/2
" 19—Charges on Plate and Members' Cards from Toronto to Hamilton.	0 2 6
" 22—One box Candles.	1 5 0
" 27—Expenses for Mr Spencer's Lectures.	1 0 0
Mar 16—George Barnes, for Books.	5 10 0
Apr. 10—James Ellis, for Plate and Cards.	2 0 0
June 6—Armour & Co.	1 0 6
Nov. 18—George Pirie, for Printing.	0 12 6
" " " " " "	1 11 2
" " " " " "	8 10 0
1851.	
Jan. 3—Rev. Mr Spencer, for Apparatus.	2 10 0
" " " " " "	7 4 8
" " " " " "	43 3 10 1/2
Cr.	
1850.—By cash received,	£ s. d.
Members' Fees.	38 0 4 1/2
Fines.	1 8 6
April 10—W. Howat, Esq. (donation)	1 5 0
Nov. 18—Rent from Building Society.	2 10 0
	43 3 10 1/2

By cash on hand.

Your Committee trust that Classes for Mutual Instruction, the commencement of a Museum, and other desiderata, will be accomplished during the present season.

Parliament has been further prorogued to the 12th March, but not then to meet for the despatch of business.