

When on the field of Bunymede the Barons forced from the weak but virtuous King John, the Great Charter of English liberty, none of its provisions proved a greater safeguard of justice than that which provided that no freeman could be "outlawed, imprisoned or condemned without the lawful judgment of his peers;" and through the long reigns of tyranny and usurpation which followed, it stood the Palladium of the nation, and the one impregnable defence against the oppression and insane struggle for absolute power. It insured to the people the glorious power of freedom by the public verdict and investigation of their cause, despite the strong walls of the Tower, and chains and shackles which absolutism had forged against the Montforts, the Hampdens and the Sacerdotes, who so dearly purchased the freedom which we to-day enjoy.

Without its aid they should have languished in feudal towers and fetid dungeons with a little hope in the future as the political exiles whose life's horizon to-day is bounded by the penal mines and snows of Siberia, but who still leave behind them ten hundred thousand Russians ready to give them a verdict of acquittal, did their judicial system afford them an opportunity.

Canadians, as British subjects and heirs to the glorious rights of their National Constitution, and the traditions of its upbuilding, have, it would appear, come to undervalue their privileges, and seem willing to throw away the blessings of that highest of all courts of appeal, an unprejudiced jury of their countrymen.

"Aye, there's the rub," an unprejudiced jury! Have we not too much evidence that such is almost a phenomenon?—not only that they prejudice a case, but that they are capable of being approached and corrupted; else why such a notorious failure of justice as in the late London manslaughter case, and others that might be cited? Why also the unaccountable variation in the verdicts of juries in dealing with crimes? Would not our rights and liberties be safer in the hands of a Judge alone, than committed to the ignorance, prejudice or cupidity of our juries? Let us not forget that if England had a Blackstone and a Coke, she had also a Bacon and a Jeffreys, by whom justice was sold, or basely and brutally administered. The genius of the whole British Constitution is opposed to the one man power. Judges, so far as we have ever discovered, have the same physical, mental, and moral constitution as jurymen, and are sometimes accused of giving strange decisions. Instead, therefore, of seeking to overturn and destroy this feature in the administration of our laws, it might be more profitable to enquire, what are the chief causes that lead to a comparative failure in the jury system to secure the highest ends of justice?

We notice first, that the thoroughly democratic character of all our institutions, and the complete social equality of the community, leaves a jurymen much more easily approached than he would be in a country where the distinctions of caste prevailed even to a small extent. It is difficult for a jurymen to keep free from the society and influence of a man with whom he has perhaps hob-nobbed for years in the village bar-room; whose business may be the same as his own, and who may often in a half-jocular way be led into compromising his position as a jurymen almost before he is aware of his error. A second, and we believe a more serious, evil is the system of challenging jurymen. This at the very outset goes on the assumption that jurymen are not reliable, and tends to create the very evil which it seeks to remedy. We hold that a prisoner has, or ought to have, just the same right to challenge a jurymen as he has to challenge a jurymen—a course which permits such a course insults both the intelligence and honesty of the man so challenged, telling him as plainly as words can do, that he has not the ability or will to act justly in the case in hand. Besides, it offers rather a palatable sop to the vanity of those who may be permitted to try the case; thus tending to create a prejudice favorable to the prisoner, even without the knowledge of those so influenced. We maintain, therefore, that a number of men are summoned, and twelve selected from among them to act as jurymen, these ought to be regarded as incorruptible as the judge, and no change or challenging whatever permitted. We do not for a moment doubt the existence of the evils complained of by our contemporaries; but say rather that our system is itself largely to blame, and tends to augment the evil. The sure and perhaps only remedy for this part of the difficulty is to remove the trial of all cases of any importance away altogether from the locality where the cases occur, thus securing a jury wholly outside the circle of influence or excitement for or against the prisoner, or litigants even in a civil suit.

There is another and still more fruitful cause of failure in securing the ends of justice by the jury system. We do not say with some of our contemporaries, that even lawyers are sometimes guilty of operating outside of the courtroom endeavoring to secure a "bar-room verdict." But we are satisfied that the generally recognized principle among the profession, which main-

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It is little to be wondered at if the prisoner or the prisoner's friends try to make the kind of witnesses and jurymen required for the end in view. They know that they shall be winked at, if not encouraged by the ambitious pillar of the law, who glories in his scalps, altogether independent of the means by which they may have been obtained. True, the opposing counsel may try to defeat his stratagems or expose his fallacies, but the schemes of the one are about on a par with those of the other, so that the whole business tends unavoidably to lower our ideas of the dignity of law, and the sacred character of truth and justice, till at length, by familiarity with such degrading influences, jurymen descend to the recognition and practice of principles approved by their betters.

We have no fears whatever for the purity and usefulness of our juries. Their position and importance will be fully established, when it is shown in our law courts, that the end aimed at is justice, and not verdicts and lawyers' fees.

We therefore submit the foregoing observations to the judgment of our readers, believing that both the evil and its remedy, lie very nearly in the line pointed out.

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It was stated that to carry out the objects sought in the bill proposed to be introduced at the next session of the Legislature, a grant of \$5,000 would be required. Mr. Mowat seemed to be favorable to the proposition.

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To Pork Packers.
For sale in the City of Guelph, at a great bargain, the most complete Pork curing establishment in the country. Every facility for carrying on a large and lucrative trade. Premises unrivalled and fitted with all modern appliances, such as boiler, smoke house, steam pipes, vats, chopping blocks and knives, rendering facilities, &c. Large quantity of salt, empty pork barrels and lard crocks, &c., &c., on hand. A splendidly fitted-up retail shop, fronting Wyndham street, stuck in the very centre of business part of the city. In front of the premises (which extend from Wyndham to Woolwich street) with every convenience for the retail trade. Marble counters and shelving, meat racks and hooks, chandeliers, counter scales, knives and blocks, wrapping paper, &c. A complete new steam cutting machine. Premises and cellars are the most commodious and complete in the city. Immediate possession. The outlay necessary to begin business, apply to J. C. McLagan, Agent, Guelph.

TO THE ELECTORS OF
ST. GEORGE'S WARD.

Having been re-nominated by Electors of St. George's Ward as School Trustee, I would ask a renewal of your confidence, and I would also call attention to the advantages of the Public Schools during the last twenty years. I think I am fully alive to the requirements of the position. Believing that one directly interested in the schools will best look after your interests, I respectfully ask your support.

I am yours very truly,
WM. BURGESS.

TO THE ELECTORS OF
ST. DAVID'S WARD.

Your vote and influence are respectfully solicited for

GEO. H. SKINNER
as Alderman for St. David's Ward for 1880.

January 3rd, 1880.

TO THE ELECTORS OF THE
CITY OF GUELPH.

GENTLEMEN—
Your Vote and interest are respectfully solicited for

JOHN HARRIS
FOR WATER COMMISSIONER.

TO THE ELECTORS OF
ST. GEORGE'S WARD.

HAVING BEEN NOMINATED AS a School Trustee for St. George's Ward, I am desirous of your attention to the trust of the position. In view of the important powers now possessed by the Board of School Trustees, and the duties devolving on Trustees, in a city like this, I fully appreciate the responsibility attaching to the office.

Your obedient servant,
H. H. SWINFORD.

TO THE ELECTORS OF
ST. JOHN'S WARD.

Your vote and influence are respectfully solicited for

Walter J. Fairbank
as Alderman for 1880.

January 2nd, 1880.

TO THE ELECTORS OF
ST. PATRICK'S WARD.

Your vote and influence are respectfully solicited for

WALTER LAING,
as Alderman for St. Patrick's Ward for 1880.

Jan. 2nd, 1880.

TO THE ELECTORS OF
ST. DAVID'S WARD.

GENTLEMEN:
It is my intention to offer myself for your suffrages for the coming year as Alderman for your Ward, and should I have the honor to be elected, shall in the future, as in the past, to my best to serve the interests of the city in general, and particularly that of St. David's Ward.

I have the honor to remain,
Your obedient servant,
JOHN TYSON.

TO THE ELECTORS OF
ST. JOHN'S WARD.

GENTLEMEN—Your vote and interest are respectfully solicited in the interest of

John Read,
as Alderman for 1880.

If elected I shall use my best endeavor to advance our Market, and to do so to remove if possible all cause of complaint. I would be prepared to encourage manufacturing here by granting exemption from taxation for a term of years. I am desirous of changing our present mode of distributing relief, believing as I do that the present system is not calculated to spend the money to the best advantage.

JOHN READ.

Water Commissioner.

Your vote and influence are respectfully solicited for

GEORGE HOWARD
as Water Commissioner for 1880.

Polling on January 5th, 1880.

Water Commissioner.

Your vote and influence are respectfully solicited for

RICHARD MITCHELL
as Water Commissioner for 1880.

Guelph December 31st, 1880.

ST. DAVID'S WARD.

Your Vote and influence are respectfully solicited for

James Patterson
As Alderman for St. David's Ward.

As Alderman for St. David's Ward.

As Alderman for St. David's Ward.

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Meenings and Sales.
POSTPONEMENT.

The Cantata of Santa Claus
COMPOSED BY W. H. DOAN, PREPARED expressly for Sunday Schools, will be rendered at the Cathedral School, on the evening of Friday and Saturday, the 2nd and 3rd January, by the choir and the City of St. Andrew's Church, assisted by a number of the best instrumentalists. The programme includes music, songs, recitations, &c., and a splendid Santa Claus in all costume and character.

Admission on Tuesday, 25c, and on Wednesday, 15c for children. Doors open at half-past seven p.m., commence eight. Tickets to be had at the store of G. D. Pringle and W. T. Vale & Co.

RE-OPENING OF SCHOOLS.
THE HIGH AND PUBLIC
Schools of Guelph will (D. V.) re-open after the Christmas Vacation

On the 7th day of January.
ROBERT TORRANCE,
Secretary Board of Education.
Guelph, 30th January, 1879.

GUELPH TOWNSHIP
MUTUAL FIRE INSURANCE CO.

THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEET-
ING of the members of the above Company will be held at the American Hotel, Guelph.

On Saturday, 10th day of January,
next, at two o'clock p.m., for the election of directors, and other general business.

HARDWARE AND
Steam and Fitting Business for Sale
in the City of Guelph.

The business and stock of the late George S. Barber, is now offered for sale, and consists of light and heavy machinery, and working tools, situated in store fronting on Market Square. Also machinery and stock in shop, in rear of said store, consisting of lathes, engines, boilers, tubing, shafting, pulleys, &c., &c. The stock is in first class order. Terms for the whole or each will be received till January 1st, 1880, at which time the business and stock will be sold as a unit and security offered. A favorable lease may be had of the premises.

JANE BARBER.

AUCTION SALE
Freehold Property
in the City of Guelph.

UNDER AND BY VIRTUE OF THE
power of sale contained in a certain mortgage which will be produced on the day of sale, there will be offered for public auction,

On Wednesday, 7th January next,
1880, at 12 o'clock noon, at the City Hall, Guelph, that valuable property composed of lot No. 115, 116, 117, 118, 119, 120, 121, 122, 123, 124, 125, 126, 127, 128, 129, 130, 131, 132, 133, 134, 135, 136, 137, 138, 139, 140, 141, 142, 143, 144, 145, 146, 147, 148, 149, 150, 151, 152, 153, 154, 155, 156, 157, 158, 159, 160, 161, 162, 163, 164, 165, 166, 167, 168, 169, 170, 171, 172, 173, 174, 175, 176, 177, 178, 179, 180, 181, 182, 183, 184, 185, 186, 187, 188, 189, 190, 191, 192, 193, 194, 195, 196, 197, 198, 199, 200, 201, 202, 203, 204, 205, 206, 207, 208, 209, 210, 211, 212, 213, 214, 215, 216, 217, 218, 219, 220, 221, 222, 223, 224, 225, 226, 227, 228, 229, 230, 231, 232, 233, 234, 235, 236, 237, 238, 239, 240, 241, 242, 243, 244, 245, 246, 247, 248, 249, 250, 251, 252, 253, 254, 255, 256, 257, 258, 259, 260, 261, 262, 263, 264, 265, 266, 267, 268, 269, 270, 271,