If I had never left Aberdeen, I should never have—Gracious powers! what's that? We shall all be swallowed up!"

At this moment there was a report, and then a rolling crash over our heads, which made the earth shake beneath us.

"That's the house gone, said Mr. Gordon, quietly. "I expected it would not hold up long."

This was followed by a well among the negresses, and a young girl rose up, exclaiming, "Eh, me God! I let me pickanninny sleep; warra I do now? Tan away der'—tan away der; let me fetch him."

"Chough-body!" replied an old woman; "you is mad; you let you senses wid you pickanninny too. Tan till. Garramighty take car ob pickanninny now,—nobody else can."

This however did not seem to afford much comfort to the poor girl, who did nothing but sit and wail.

My mind had hitherto been so occupied that I had not time to take in the peculiarities of the scene by which we were surrounded. Immured in a large, dark vault, lit only by the feeble rays of two candles, and a lamp which hung from the ceiling, there was just enough light to give everything, except those within the radius of their light, a grotesque or a diabolical aspect. The negroes in the distance, most of whom were huddled on the floor, appeared the very personification of spirits of darkness awaiting their condemnation; one old negro, tall and spectral, in the back-ground, looking like a malevolent demon glouting over their fall.

During more than an hour, we remained in a state of incertitude as to what was going on above us; all we know was that the noise of the storm had sensibly diminished. At last, I could hold out no longer, and mounting the ladder, I endeavored to open the trap, that I might see what was the state of things above ground. I undid the latch and essayed to lift up the door, but my strength was not sufficient to lift it. I called up Mr. Gordon and one of the negroes; but our united strength failed to move it; and at last, after repeated efforts, we were fain to give over, for it became clear that the ruins of the house had fallen over us, and, till assistance could be obtained from above, we were prisoners. Our position was by no means an enviable one, for we had no idea when, even if ever, we should be release, and our stock of food was very scanty. But this was not the worst evil we had to encounter, for presently, as we sat, a low mysterious rumbling came from the bowels of the earth. A few minutes elapsed, and then the noise increased—reached us—the earth rose under our feet—the whole edifice reeled—the walls creaked—and the ladder leading to the trap split into fragments, and fell among the negroes, whose wild and despairing cries rent the vault. It was a moment of intense agony. We all stood transfixed with awe, for we expected nothing more than that the earth was about to open and swallow us up.

No sooner had the earthquake passed, than a new danger menaced us. Through one of the cracks in the wall water was flowing rapidly, and the floor of the vault was already covered some inches deep. At first, neither Mrs. Seuter nor the negroes seemed to comprehend this; but as the water rapidly increased, Mrs. Seuter became alive to her peril.

"Why," she exclaimed, startling up, "we shall all be drowned!—Is there no means of escape? Can you not think of no way of extricating us?" she asked of me.

"None whatever," I replied. "We are in the hands of God; He alone can help us, if it is His good pleasure."

The old lady's countenance became ashy pale, and then she threw up her arms, and shrieked: "I can't die—I won't die! Will nobody save me? I'll give anything.—I'll buy your freedom, and make you rich," she continued turning to the negroes.

"Ess, ma'am, save you if we can; we no let buckra ladies die if we help it; but negger life as good as anybody's, and bumbye, when de water come ober de head, we no help ourselves: we all be like den,—we all be free, and rich too, de Lord be praise!"

As the water rose, it was quite a study to watch the faces of those about me, particularly of the negroes. The gradual transition from anxiety to fear, and from that to the wildest despair, would have been ludicrous in the extreme, had not our situation been so appalling.

While all around were crying and wailing, however, Mary and Grace were perfectly quiet. Their courage did not fail them for an instant, though the water had now reached above their knees. In the faces of these two girls might be read that uncomplaining patience, that high and enduring fortitude, which is a special characteristic of Anglo-tropical women. The contrast between their calmness and the wild despair of Mrs. Seuter and the negroes was very noticeable. It was a time to try the courage of any one. Mr. Gordon I knew was not wanting in courage, but his fortitude seemed to have forsaken him. His looks were wild; the muscles of his mouth twitched and quivered, and now and then he muttered something that I could not hear.

Inch by Inch the water rose until it reached my waistcoat. One by one the buttons disappeared, as each minute our enemy gained upon us. Still I was loath to relinquish all hope. Meantime not a word had been uttered nor an exclamation made by Mr. Gordon or his two daughters. Mrs. Seuter had ceased her cries, for she had persuaded a tall negro to hoist her upon his shoulders, where she sat grasping one of the candles with great satisfaction. She was in a fool's paradise, for she did not remember that the instinct of life was as strong in the negro as in herself, and that the moment the water rose high enough to endanger the life of the negro, he would in all probability leave her to her fate. No, there was no help or escape for us, and all we could do was calmly to wait the approach of that death which was slowly creeping upon us. A moment of more awful suspense could not be contemplated. I have been through many perils, but never anything like this. A man may be brave when his blood is hot, and the tide of battle carries him on; but to stand still and see the grim destroyer coming nearer and nearer, minute by minute, and inch by inch, requires a very different sort of courage.

The water had by this time reached almost to our shoulders, and I felt my fortitude giving way; I wanted to call aloud, to shriek for help; there was something so horrible in the idea of being thus drowned, like rats in a cellar, that I recoiled from it. All this takes little time to describe; but the rise of the water was so slow, that more than half an hour had elapsed since it first entered the vault. And now again came the rumbling of the earthquake, and the sickening sensation of its shock; the place shook, the water was agitated and partially subsided. For a time I could not believe my eyes; I expected to see it rise again; but I watched it closely, and found, to my great joy, that it was rapidly diminishing. It was certainly a moment of intense relief, though our danger was not all over. We were saved from immediate death; but how were we to be extricated from our living tomb? how were we to make our situation known to others?

For several hours we remained in this state,—part of the time with the additional horror of darkness, for the lights had burned out, and we had no others to replace them. I can't tell if I or any one else slept, but I know that after a time we all appeared in a state of stupor, for not a word was uttered. At one time I fancied my senses were leaving me, for my brain was filled with strange, unearthly visions. From this I was suddenly aroused by the most appalling shrieks.

"What is it?" asked I. "What is the matter?"

"The water comes in again! Don't you hear it?" cried Mrs. Seuter.

I listened. There was a noise certainly, but it did not appear to be that of water; then it ceased. I felt about me, but my senses were so numbed that I could not tell if the water was rising or falling, or, indeed, if there was any water at all. I listened again, and most certainly there were sounds, and that they came from above was unmistakable. At first they were indistinct, but each moment they became plainer, and at last I could distinguish the blows of picks, then the noise of shovels, and these at last were mingled with the shouts of human voices. Help was truly at hand. The sense of reprieve from such a situation was more than the most stoical could have borne with indifference, and we all joined in the shouts of the negroes to their comrades above. A few minutes after this, to our inexpressible delight, the trap opened, and a gleam of sunlight burst in upon us.

I shall not attempt to depict our feelings or the wild joy of the negroes both above and below; nor shall I be able to give any correct notion of the manner in which Mrs. Seuter conducted herself, so frantic was her joy. I only know that Mr. Gordon and his two daughters embraced in their excitement, and that I thought the latter experience very agreeable.

Our final deliverance was delayed for some time for the want of a ladder. While one was being procured, the negroes and people above were very anxious to know if we were all safe.

"Dar Massa Gordon," said one.

"And dar Misse Grace an Mary," exclaimed another.

"And de lettle buckra, Massa Onzon" (the nearest approximation to Spunyarn a negro could make), "he is all right too."

"Me pickanninny, me pickanninny!" cried the poor young mother from below.

"Ah, Psyche," answered a man's voice from the trap, "you is a bad girl. You lef de chile in de bed, and you tink nothing ob him, but run way an take care ob youself; but he all right tank God."

It is singular, but nevertheless true, that amidst the wreck of the negro-village the child was found unhurt, and, in a few minutes after we reached the ground, was in the arms of its mother.

The first thing we did on arriving at the surface was to look round and see the devastation which the hurricane had produced.

The scene which our eyes fell upon was something which baffles description. The whole face of the country was, as it were changed. It looked as though a burning blast had traversed the island, for where yesterday everything was green and luxuriant, all was now bare and black. So marvellous a transformation in so short a time I had never seen; vegetation, human habitations, and animal life had all vanished.

Paradise itself was a mass of ruins, and the sugar-works were greatly damaged; but Mr. Gordon bore his loss with great equanimity.

Our rescue was due to a party of hands employed at a cove about a mile and a half distant from the house, where Mr. Gordon had a landing-place, and who, although they had been exposed to the full fury of the gale, escaped uninjured, and at daybreak started to look after the safety of their master. We were immured in the vault for more than twenty-four hours,—the longest day and night by far that I can remember.

Huron Signal.

GODERICH, AUGUST 30, 1866.

THE PRESS EXCURSION.

On Tuesday, the 21st inst., the Members of the Press Association of Upper Canada met at Kingston, for the purpose of taking boat down the St. Lawrence for Montreal, at which place it had been decided to hold the 8th Annual Convention. There were in all about one hundred members present with their ladies—one of the largest gatherings of the kind ever held in Canada. As most of the members elected to go by boat from Kingston, there was quite a crowd ready to go aboard at 5:30, a. m. The trip down the river upon such a fine steamer as the *Grecian* is a most delightful one. The scenery along the route is never tame, and at times assumes a grandeur which cannot fail to interest and charm the lover of nature. But the great feature of such a trip is the famous run of the rapids. From the start at what is called the Cedar Rapids, the spectator feels a degree of breathless excitement in which there is something indescribably exhilarating. The mighty rush of waters the rapid motions of the four men at the wheel, and the manner in which the noble vessel answers her helm like a thing of life, creates an impression that cannot soon be erased from the memory. What shall we say, however, of the Lachine Rapids. There the excitement culminates. The run of nine miles is made in about five minutes, so swift is the descent. With those nine miles are embraced dangers which might well have appalled any one from encountering them in anything larger than a canoe. At one place the navigable channel is so extremely narrow that the rocks on either side can be seen distinctly, and to make matters worse, just as the vessel darts through this sluice-like opening, it is necessary to turn her at a sharp angle. The slightest accident to the wheel or steering apparatus at such a moment would in all human probability be instant destruction to both vessel and crew. Indeed the *Lord Elgin* while running the rapids on Thursday last, *did* suffer an accident to the rudder chain, and, we are informed, that had it not been for the coolness of the Captain, the accident must have been a most disastrous one.

We arrived safely in Montreal on Tuesday evening, and at once took up our quarters at the St. Lawrence Hall. Next morning the party scattered over the city by threes and fours, to see the sights and pass time away until the hour of meeting. Montreal, which is decidedly the great commercial entrepot of Canada, gives ample evidence of the great wealth poured into her lap by the producers of Upper Canada. The city is full of life and bustle, and the immense stone-fronted buildings going up in all directions, intended for wholesale houses, is suggestive of still further development. The streets, once so narrow and gloomy, are now being widened, and if they were kept clean would add greatly to the appearance of the place. The weather was so wet and disagreeable during our stay that sight-seeing was not a very pleasant operation.

At ten o'clock the meeting was held in one of the many Halls of the city. The utmost harmony prevailed, and the main results have been laid before our readers. Mr. Sellar, of the *Echo*, we might say, explained that it was the intention of some leading gentlemen in Montreal to entertain the members of the Association, but had been prevented from doing so by the crowded state of the hotels. Messrs. Sellar, John Dougall, Esq., of the *Witness*, and the other newspaper men of the city, were very kind and attentive. We are happy to be able to state that Mr. Cox succeeded in getting all but a unanimous vote (only one hand being raised in the negative) in favor of holding the next meeting at Goderich, to be followed by a trip across Lake Huron to the Saginaw Valley. We are satisfied that the good people of Goderich will be glad to do all in their power towards rendering the visit of so many newspaper men as agreeable as possible.

The magnificent steamer Quebec—the finest vessel in the country, being announced to sail for the ancient Capital on Wednesday night, and our party bade a hasty adieu to Montreal for the time being and got aboard of her, but previous to being finally settled, we had the pleasure of witnessing the reception of Lord Monck (who had come from Ottawa on his way to Quebec) by the Mayor and Corporation. The soldiers were turned out, and his Worship, in English and French, read an address in which His Excellency was warmly congratulated upon his elevation to the peerage. Lord Monck replied in an open, candid, common-sense style that did him great credit, and elicited frequent bursts of applause.

The trip to Quebec being made at night, we can say nothing as to the scenery of the Lower St. Lawrence, which is said to be very fine. Arrived at Quebec—on Thursday morning, we enjoyed ourselves by driving by couples and threes in the only light vehicle known in the city, yclept calaches, which are urged over hill and dale at break-neck speed. After visiting the historical spot upon which the noble Wolfe won Quebec for Britain, and forfeited his life, we went out several miles to the Falls of Montmorenci, which are well worthy the attention of tourists. Then we visited the citadel, and had the pleasure of looking down from those frowning cliffs which render the city the Gibraltar of America.

Quebec is noted for the ancient-like appearance of most of its buildings, and the large amount of shipping done at its port. There were lying anchored in the river, besides H. M. S. *Aurora*, many ocean-going ships. By the way, we should have mentioned that at Montreal, through the kindness of the officers, we had the privilege of inspecting the steam frigate *Pylades*, 21 guns.

Our visit to Quebec was, on the whole, a most pleasant one, and there was not a murmur of dissatisfaction when we started on the return trip to Montreal by the evening train. Tried a sleeping berth for the first time and found it a means of relieving the horrible tedium of a whole night's railway trip. We crossed that marvel of human ingenuity—the Victoria Bridge—on Friday morning at 6 o'clock, and being set down at the Bonaventure station, amused ourselves by going from one place to another in search of an early breakfast

Most of the members left by the 9 o'clock train, on their way home, and the excursion was practically at an end.

We cannot close without expressing our appreciation of the courtesy of the Grand Trunk and other railway managers, Mr. Dwight, of the Montreal Telegraph, and steamboat men, for courtesies extended by them to members.

SPEECH OF THE ADJUT. GENERAL.

On Saturday last, 25th instant., the "Queen's Own," from Toronto, and the 13th Battalion from Hamilton, arrived in camp at Thorold. Both Battalions being formed in square, Col. McDougall inspected them; and then addressed them, in a forcible and appropriate speech. We extract the following remarks which are of general interest, and are caculated in a great measure, to dispel the misgivings that many of our readers may have entertained as to the officiency of the Militia Department:—

"Both newspapers and individuals have asserted that the government has been and is neglecting its duty in the matter of proper equipment for the volunteers. That statement is untrue. There is no foundation for it whatever. I would ask who is it that is responsible for the faulty equipment, who is responsible for the starving of the militia expenditure up to the last meeting of Parliament? Why the people of Canada through their representatives; and I declare positively that from the moment of the passing of the last militia estimates, no government could have done more than the present government has done to render the volunteer force efficient. It is natural that the people of Canada should be impatient in this matter, but they should consider that the labor to be performed is enormous and that the completion of it must take time. When it is considered that new clothing had to be issued to the greater part of the old existing force; that knapsacks, haversacks and water canteens had to be provided; that the field batteries required new harness as well as guns and stores, and that the cavalry required saddlery and fire-arms at the same time that about 150 new companies were to be equipped throughout, it must be evident that the work could not be done with that rapidity which all must so earnestly desire. Even before the militia estimates were passed an urgent request was forwarded to England that a complete equipment in knapsacks, haversacks, tent equipage, &c., for 35,000 volunteers should be sent to Canada, as well as for the necessary harness and armament of four field batteries and for a supply of heavy guns for the instruction of the garrison artillery. The Imperial stores in Canada have been drawn upon to their utmost capacity for our pressing wants, and to make up deficiencies contracts have been entered into in Canada for haversacks, water canteens and boots, and as a substitute for knapsacks, which can only be obtained from England great coat strains have been made or are making in Canada sufficient to supply every man of the force. New rifles have been sent to London, Hamilton and Toronto for the purpose of exchanging damaged or unserviceable arms. I have entered into this explanation in order that the country may know that the militia department is doing its utmost duty to enable the volunteer force to take the field, if required, with that full and proper equipment which its merits so well deserve. There is yet another matter I must not forget before concluding. Certain individuals have publicly expressed the opinion that if the volunteers are sent into the field with their present weapons—the only ones, be it remembered, with which it is possible at the present moment to supply either the volunteers or the regulars—to meet the Fenians with their superior repeating rifles, the government of the country would only send them into the field to be murdered; and one man had the temerity to say that unless the volunteers were supplied with repeating rifles, he would recommend them not to turn out in defence of the country if called upon. Now, I say that the man who uses that language gives aid and comfort to the enemy; that I believe such language to be seditious, and the man who utters it is either a traitor or a fool. A well-meaning fool it may be, but a well-meaning fool is probably one of the most mischievous of human beings. People who speak in this manner would do well to remember that there is at present a very summary process of punishing seditious language, and certainly the man who should express himself as I have just described would richly deserve to be either shut up in prison as a traitor or consigned to an asylum as a dangerous lunatic. And there is really no foundation whatever for any apprehensions on the score of inferior arms. If it were at all possible that the Fenians should invade Canada in any numbers armed with repeaters, I for one would rather see those arms in their hands than good Enfield or Springfield rifles. In common with all experienced officers whose opinion I have heard, I consider every repeating rifle I have seen worthless as an infantry arm, and one fact I can tell you which is worth any amount of windy declamation, that an officer who commanded the company which was armed with Spencer rifles at Lime-ridge wished to exchange them back again for the old Enfield. I don't believe the government will ever arm the volunteers with repeating rifles, but I know they are most anxious to give them the best sample of breech-loaders, which are also, I believe, the best weapon for a soldier in the world. A message was sent to England several weeks back over the Atlantic cable for a sufficient supply of these breech-loaders, and I am in hopes that not many weeks—probably not many days—will elapse before the arrival in Canada of breech-loading arms for the whole volunteer force."

Farewell Dinner to the U. S. Consul.

The people of Goderich having learned with regret that Mr. Fitnam, United States Consul at this place, was about to resign his position and return to his family near Washington, determined, ere he left, to give him a farewell entertainment, in order to demonstrate the estimation in which he has been held for his many social and personal merits as the representative of a foreign government. Accordingly, a number of the leading representative men of the town ordered the dinner to be served up at the Albion Hotel on Saturday last at 6 o'clock, p. m., at which hour the party sat down to a most *recherche* one, served up in John Donogh's best style.

We noticed among those present, Judge Toms, Messrs. Gordon, Moore, McDermott, Walker and Benson, of the Goderich bar, Dr. McDougall, Charles Widder, Esq., Captain Hays, and Ensign Seymour, of the Rifles, Captain Ord, late of H. M. service, S. H. Detlor, Esq.; the Mayor was unavoidably absent; Geo. Rumball, Esq., Mr. Findlay, of the Bank of Montreal, and many others well known for their standing and respectability in our community; and last, but not least, the venerable Father Snyder, pastor of the Catholic Church here for over 24 years. Mr. Widder conveyed the regret of the Rev. Mr. Elwood at his being unable to attend. The Chair was occupied by Mr. McDermott, on whose right sat General Allcock, the newly appointed Consul, and on his left the guest of the evening, Mr. Fitnam. Lawyer Gordon occupied the vice-chair, with Mr. Moore on his right and Father Schneider on his left.

Back of the chair hung entwined the English and American national flags, suggestive of those ties of fraternal friendship which should always exist between the people which they respectively represent.

The dinner having been elaborately discussed, aided by a generous flow of sherry and champaign, the chairman gave "The Queen," God bless her. This sentiment was, of course, received as it always is by true British subjects, with loud cheers, after which the whole company, including the two American Consuls, sang "God save the Queen," standing.

The next toast proposed by the Chairman was, "The President of the United States."

This, like the previous one, was most rapturously received. When quiet was restored Mr. Fitnam arose and thanked the company for the honor they had paid to the executive chief of the United States, a man whom he said he had known for twenty years, while he occupied seats in both Houses of Congress, as the honored and honest representative of the State of Tennessee; and, although there now appeared to be some opposition to his administration of public affairs upon the part of a few of his late friends, still he had no doubt but in a short time the wheels of government would run again in their wonted course, and Mr. Johnson's administration of the government of his country be read in after history with pleasure and satisfaction.—He did not believe that the President harbored one unkind feeling toward a single citizen, whether from the North—the South—the East or the West; but his sole object was to unite all parties under the panoply of a common brotherhood, fortified and protected equally by the constitution and laws of the United States.

At this stage of the proceedings Capt Ord was called upon for a song, which he gave in his pleasant, bland manner, and which elicited the applause of the company.

The next toast in order, said the Chairman, was one which he knew would be cheerfully responded to by all present. It was in honor of one who had been but a few months among us—a stranger he might almost say, but who, by his gentlemanly conduct and generous and friendly intercourse with all, had won for himself the love and friendship of the people of Goderich. It was to show him their appreciation of his merits in this respect, that they had met there that evening to do him justice. All regretted his leaving the town, but none more so than himself, and although he was satisfied that Gen. Allcock, his successor, would be to them equally as agreeable as Mr. Fitnam, yet, he must say that he, as well as all who heard him, deeply regretted his departure. He would now propose the health of our guest, THOMAS FITNAM, late Consul of the United States, in Goderich.—Mr. Fitnam, who was evidently affected by the manner in which the company rose and received the sentiment, was for some moments before he was able to respond. He then said,

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen—The unexpected, and I will add also, the undeserving compliment which you have paid me, by an invitation to dine with you on the eve of my departure for Washington has been received by me, I assure you, with feelings of the deepest gratitude. Why is it that you the wealth and talent, and I will say also the *elite* of the citizens of Goderich, should thus voluntarily manifest so much kindness for one who has been, as your chairman has said, but a few months among you, I will leave to the impulses of your own generous hearts to determine; yet were I to undertake the task of probing the motives which have prompted you to do so, I should find them to spring from that broad and all pervading source of unselfish friendship, which is characteristic alike of the people of U. and Lower Canada. No stranger with a respectable reputation ever comes among them without receiving their hospitality and the hand of friendship. And now I may perhaps say without being considered egotistical a word or two for myself. I honestly affirm that, in my brief social intercourse with you, I have done all in my power to win your friendship, which I have valued most highly, and that without faultering in a solitary instance in my duty to my Government and people, or fawning upon any man that a simulated respect for me might follow. What I have said, or thought, or done as a resident of your town, I have said and thought, and done in harmony with your best social and local interests, nor have I ever entertained either a hope or a desire that those interests should be disturbed by internal or external causes, more especially by those for which the people of these Provinces are in no wise responsible. I have, I think, pursued towards you an honest and straightforward course, and I think I see before me to-night the evidence of your approbation of it. Nor have I, on the other, hand as the Consular representative of the United States failed in my official respect for Her Majesty's authorities, civil and Military, by omitting to extend to them those international courtesies which the Government of the United States sedulously requires of its public servants accredited to foreign countries. Indeed were I to have done so, I should not only deserve your disrespect, as I certainly should receive from the head of the Department of State—a Department with which for the second time I have been nearly for five years officially connected, the severest censure. And Gentlemen, there is another and higher source of satisfaction to me than the faithful performance of my duty, which is, that I have received within a few weeks from Washington, in a dispatch, from Mr. Seward the Talleyrand of modern statesmen—with all of Talleyrand's diplomatic virtues—with none of his vices, an official approbation of my official acts; therefore I will say that my departure from Goderich is owing altogether to circumstances over which the Secretary of State had and could exercise no control. We have to look to the Senate for that—the conscript Fathers of the country. The Gentleman who succeeds me—General Allcock and for whom I need not bespeak your kind regards is one who will do credit to the place he has been appointed to fill, for it five years fidelity to the flag of his adopted country upon many a hard fought field of battle be a guarenty that his conduct among you will be such as you desire, he has the record to show you. In conclusion Gentlemen, I will say that whether I shall ever return to Goderich or not, or wherever my lot in future may be cast, I shall carry with me and cherish to the latest hour of my life, the remembrance of your friendship, and the many, many pleasant hours which I have spent in your society.

Mr. Fitnam during the delivery of the foregoing remarks was repeatedly cheered.

The Chairman next gave Gen. Allcock, Mr. Fitnam's successor.

The General said that he was happy to have been honored with an invitation on this occasion, that he came among them rather unexpectedly, but he that as it may he would endeavor to deserve this respect and friendship which it was apparent Mr. Fitnam had won from all in Goderich. He said he was an Englishman by birth, but a citizen of the United States by adoption, and that he had served in the United States army for four years and eight months, and had been in many of the severest engagements at the South. He would do all he could to promote the commercial welfare of the Merchants of Goderich, while he should hold the office he was appointed to fill.

The bench and bar of Goderich were also complimented, to which Judge Toms, Messrs. Gordon and Dermott responded.

Ensign Seymour toasted the Volunteers of Canada, and spoke highly in their favor as citizen soldiers who were ready to take the field at a moments notice; and although they could not be expected to do as well as Regulars at first, they would do what they could in defence of their country if their lives were to be the sacrifice.

Mr. Widder's health having been drank, that Gentleman arose and said that he could not let the occasion pass without saying a word in compliment of the Consul. During the Fenian excitement of June, and when it was expected the enemy would land, every one, especially the women and children were in a state of alarm at that time, Mr. Fitnam came to him and told him that if any danger should arise, and an actual invasion of Fenians should happen, to bring his family or the family of any others to his hotel, and the flag of the United States should protect them if no respect should be paid by the invaders to his own. While he had every confidence for the security of persons and property under his own flag, he felt eventeitless thankful to the Consul for his offer of protection, as he knew his object was one at least to allay the fears of those who were alarmed without any cause. The company would not fail to appreciate Mr. Fitnam's kind offers on that occasion. He added that he could but regret Mr. Fitnam's departure from among us.

The jollification continued till near midnight amid flashes of fun, with song and repartee when the company adjourned highly pleased with the nights entertainments.

Too much praise cannot be awarded Mr. Donagh—"mine host," for the handsome manner in which he furnished the table, suffice it to say that every delicacy which the season could afford in the way of edibles, wines, liquors, and confectionary was bountifully supplied.

MELANCHOLY AFFAIR.

We were shocked on receiving intelligence of the untimely death of Mr. Nelson B. Fralick, son of B. Fralick, Esq., D C. Clerk of Ainleyville. It appears that, by some accident, deceased took an overdose of laudanum or some such drug on Sunday last, and lay in a state of stupor for about 45 hours. Notwithstanding the efforts of Dr. Cole he expired on Tuesday at 9 o'clock, a. m. Dr. Coleman was to hold a *post mortem* on the body, after which we shall be able to give further particulars. Mr. Fralick was a member of the Huron Rifles, beloved by all his companions, and a more promising young man we have never met. His end was truly a sad one.

WET WEATHER.—The past week has been one of almost constant rain, and farmers have had great trouble with outstanding grain. The weather was fortunately very cold for the season.

☞ We call the attention of our readers to the Advertisement of Miss Hamilton in another column.

☞ We regret to learn that Mr A W Otter, died suddenly on Saturday last, at his residence in Toronto.

The New Election Law.

To the Editor of the Huron Signal.

In reading over the Municipal act of last session, I find many alterations which effect our approaching Municipal election.

1st. The Reeve and Deputy Reeve are now to be elected by the people in the same way as the Mayor, they will also be nominated on the same day and at the same time as the Mayor, which is at ten o'clock of the last Monday but one in December.

2nd. Three Councillors for each ward for Towns not having five Wards, shall be nominated at the various polling places at noon of the same day, so that no nomination can be received by Returning officers on the day of the Election.

3rd. That one of those elected shall retire at the end of the first year, one at the end of the second, and the third at the end of the third year, the Council at the first meeting under the direction of the Clerk shall billot for who shall retire.

4th. That only one Councillor will be required to be elected for each ward on the ensueing years, the retiring member is eligible for relection. The qualification for Mayor and Councillors is $800 freehold, and $1600 leasehold actual value.

I am yours,
SUBSCRIBER.

Annual Meeting of the Press Association.

The Press Association of Canada met this morning in the hall of the Mercantile Liberty Association, at ten o'clock.

The following is a list of the office bearers:—

M. Bowell, *Intelligencer*, Belleville, President; Thomas Sellers, *Echo*, Montreal, 1st Vice President; James Campbell, *Gazette*, Whitby, 2nd Vice President; W. T. Cox, *Huron Signal*, Goderich, Secretary and Treasurer; Wm. Buckingham, *Beacon*, Stratford, Honorary Secretary.

After calling over the roll of members, the following were found to be in attendance:—

R Matherson, *Chronicle* Oil Springs, W R Davis, *Advocate*, Mitchell; Edward Oliver, Paris; C B Robinson, *Post*, Lindsay; J G Robinson, *Post*, Lindsay; A McLean, *Freeholder*, Cornwall; John Midgely, *Times*, Woodstock; Nelles, *Sentinel*, do; A McClenighan, *Times*, do; R S Birch, do do; R Carman, *Freeman*, do; J H Bryant, do do; T Messenger, *Sachem*, Caledonia; W T Cox, *Huron Signal*, Goderich; P G Laurie *Record*, Windsor; W Gillespie, Hamilton; Wm A Shepherd, *Intelligencer*, Belleville; A Henry, *Standard*, Napanee; R Shaw *Standard*, Perth; R Boyle, *Times*, Picton; J Stration, *Examiner*, Peteboro; W H Floyd *Star*, Cobourg; W C Trumble, *Expositor*, Brantford; E Campbell, *Sentinel*, Cayuga; J W Harris, *Times*, Hamilton; J M Gibson, do do; G W Verrall, *Home Guard*, Strathroy; J W Carman, *British American*, Kingston; T J Carman, *Express* Napanee; W P Kelley, *Canadian*, Simcoe; R Romaine, *Review*, Peterboro; H C Kennedy. *Courier*, Morrisburg; C J Hynes *Messenger*, Prescott; D J Hall, *Chronicle*, Merrickville; E Jackson, *Era*, Newmarket; Thos Scott, *Expositor*, Perth; D Kellick, do do; J S Lark, *Vindicator*, Oshawa; W R Cilmie, *Statesman*, Bowmanville; J King, *Ex-Telegraph*, Berlin; J W Conger, *Gazette*, Picton; T Berran; *Express*, Napanee; Jas. Shannon, *Daily News*, Kingston; Rev J C Climie *Statesman*, Bowmanville; S L Roberts, *Examiner*, Stratford; D McAllister, *Sentinel*, Cobourg; H Purnell, *Churchman*, Kingston; H Hough, *World*, Cobourg; J McMullen, *Monitor*, Brockville; S J Jones, *Post*, Ottawa; Jas London, *Times*, Brampton; W S Johnston, *Globe*, Toronto; J D McIntosh, *Chronicle*, Oil Springs; John Dougall, *Witness*, Montreal; Chas Heavysege, do do; James H Wood, *Canadian*, Sarnia; J S Johnson, *Guide*, Port Hope; James Holden, *Observer*, Prince Albert; R Matheson, *Champion*, Milton; W Mowat Stratford; W Nicholson, *Examiner*, Barrie; W G Powell, *Star*, Paris; R Abbott, *Standard*, St Mary's; Jno Cameron, *Advertiser*, T McNaughton, *Sun*, Cobourg; W Buckingham, *Beacon*, Stratford; W Hally, Toronto; James Innes, *Mercury*, Guelph, P E Moyer, *Chronicle*, Waterloo; A McPherson, *Telegraph*, Berlin; F McPherson, do; Ed Grigg, *New Era*, Clinton; Rev Jas A R Dickson, *Visitor*, Toronto; E R Dewhurst, *Telegraph*, Welland; W McLaghlin, *Home Journal*, St Thomas; Dr Gillespie, Picton; A J Belch, *Argus*, St Mary's; C H Kirby, *Herald*, Montreal; D McDougall, Ex-President, Berlin; Jno Maclean, *Globe* correspondent, Hamilton; A Diamond, *Chronicle*, Belleville.

Minutes of last annual meeting were read, and being amended, were declared approved.

In pursuance of a motion given at last meeting by Mr Sellars, the constitution was amended by erasing the word "Upper" in the title of the Association. It is now styled the "Canadian Press Association."

The following gentlemen were elected officers for the current year:—

President—Thomas Sellar, Montreal.

Vice-Presidents—Jas. Campbell and W. T. Cox, Goderich.

Secy—Treasurer — W. Buckingham, Stratford.

Honorary Secretary—S. I. Jones, Ottawa.

Committee—E. Jackson, Wm. Nicholson, A. J. Belch, C. B. Robinson, Lindsay; R. Romaine, Peterboro.

It was decided to hold the next Annual Meeting at Goderich, and have an Excursion to Saginaw Valley, across Lake Huron.

In view of confederation Mr Haynes gave notice that at the next meeting he would move that the word "Canada" be expunged from the constitution, and the words "British North America" be inserted instead thereof.

Messrs. John Dougall, Charles Heavysage, and C H Kirby, of Montreal, were proposed and accepted as members of the association.

A resolution was also passed appointing a committee to prepare topics for discussion at next annual meeting.

☞ We would direct attention to the adv. of Mr. C. E. Archibald, whose stock is very full in all branches. Give him a visit.

FENIAN EXCITEMENT IN CHICAGO.

A despatch sent from Chicago on Monday, to the New York journals, says that there was great excitement there on that day among the Fenians, and a movement of some kind is evidently under way, although everything is kept profoundly secret. Some mysterious pic-nics and pleasure gatherings are announced in that vicinity. Two hundred Fenians passed through Nashville on Sunday from Memphis, on their way to attend the Chicago pic-nics, and news has been received even from New Orleans that the Fenians there are making preparations for the Chicago pic-nics. While the recent Fenian pic-nic in Chicago undoubtly had no direct connection with any movement against Canada as it was public, yet Gen. O'Neill's visit there, was doubtless for the purpose of consultation with reference to that movement. Expecting the time he was speaking at the pic-nic, he was closeted with prominent Fenians there, and since his arrival at Nashville he has expressed great satisfaction with his visit, and predicts glorious times for the Fenians this Fall.

BREECH LOADING RIFLES.

The Ottawa correspondent of the Leader telegraph as follows:

"It is known that a large number of converted Enfields were ordered some time ago for the use of the militia of this country, but as some delay will inevitably occur in procuring these, a sub-committee of the executive council, consisting of the Hon. Messrs. Blair, Macdougall and Cockburn, was appointed to collect samples of all the best breech-loading and revolving rifles which can be obtained on this side of the Atlantic, with the object of ascertaining which would be the most serviceable weapon to place in the hands of the volunteer force upon the frontier. A trial was accordingly had on Tuesday in the neighborhood of Ottawa. Two or three of the best shots in the city joined in it. I am informed that the result was most conclusive in favor of one particular weapon, a breech-loader but not a revolver. With the rifle in question twelve shots were fired in one minute, an accurate aim being taken every time. The sub-committee have accordingly reported in favor of this arm and a sufficient supply for the present purposes is to be procured at once. A further trial of rifles is to be held by a board of regular officers, and the government is on the alert to collect such further information with regard to improved weapons as it may be possible to obtain."

FROM NEW YORK.

From our own Correspondent.

NEW YORK, Aug. 20th.

The number of cholera cases reported during the past week shows that the epidemic still exists to a considerable extent in various parts of this city, and that unremitting efforts are still needed to prevent the disease from spreading any further. The sudden change in the weather during the past few days is supposed to be the cause of an increase in the number of cases reported. On Saturday there were no less than seventeen cases and eight deaths, but in the public institutions there is a continued abatement of the epidemic. The majority of cases recently reported are of a very sudden and fatal character—most of those attacked never recover, and the disease now appears to be more contagious and resists the effects of medicine *more* than the early cases. A very curious case occurred over in Brooklyn the other day. It appears that one of the marines at the Brooklyn Navy-Yard died on Thursday, it was supposed, from the cholera, and while the funeral procession was on its way to the cemetery with his remains, he returned to consciousness, and actually kicked the lid off the coffin, objecting most decidedly to being carried off in that summary manner without first having been consulted about it! The cholera is still raging with great intensity in many of the Southern and Western cities, but is abating in Chicago. In Cincinnati there were sixty-four deaths on Saturday, and a day of fasting and praying has been appointed. In St. Louis there were ninety-six cases and thirty-five deaths reported for the 24 hours ending at noon on Saturday, and during the same time in New Orleans twenty-six cases proved fatal.

The New York *Herald* has again been very busy at work representing the Canadians to be "scared" and "frightened out of their wits" at the approach of another Fenian filibustering expedition.—It appears, however, that the "expedition" alluded to is only a pic-nic that has been extensively advertised to take place somewhere in the vicinity of Buffalo, near the scene of the late *fiasco*—the leaders and "head-centres" being determined to keep the thing going, in some shape or other, just as long as they can find dupes and "greenies" among their own countrymen who will be foolish enough to buy Fenian bonds, or even become subscribers to a pic-nic. But as the whole affair is looked upon here by the more intelligent class as a miserable sham, I am inclined to think that nothing more serious will grow out of this pic-nic business than the fierce assault that will undoubtedly be made on pies, whiskey, and lager. As the proceedings are to be enlivened by a sham battle to represent the late fight at Ridgeway, in which all the "pomp and circumstance of war" will be imitated, without fear of coming into too close quarters with cold steel or villainous saltpetre, nothing more than possibly a few broken heads may be looked for. Does it not seem to you that the Fenians have had about enough sham battles already? The Campo Bello *fiasco* of Mr. Finnigan Killian, and the late skedaddle back here from over the border were about as successful and complete "shams" as there is any need for, and could hardly be improved upon even at a great Fenian pic-nic.

In connection with this subject of Fenianism, I may add that the Radical party in this country, who have had everything their own way for the past few years, and who controlled the late Congress in almost everything, is doing all in its power to secure the Irish vote at the approaching elections. The late National Union Convention held at Philadelphia to support the President in his great work of restoring the whole Union and upholding the Constitution has given the Radicals a shock that has rendered them more desperate than ever. Not content with experimenting on the negro, these disunionists are busily engaged in seeking to excite the prejudices of the Irish-born citizens against the President for the active and constitutional measures he enforced against the lawless band of marauders who so recently undertook to invade and pillage a friendly neighbor. The only resource now of these Radicals, led on by such fanatics as old Thad. Stevens, Forney, D. D., Sumner, Banks, and a host of others to preserve a political existence, is to array section against section, and race against race. Mr. Banks, who got up a buncombe report on Neutrality laws, and had it laid before Congress just previous to adjournment, is the same Mr. Banks who led the Knownothing party a few years ago in Massachusetts. The Radical party of to-day was the Knownothing party then; and unless they can bully the Irish-born citizens to uphold them in prolonging anarchy and despotism, will turn upon and assail them as they did before. The Irish-born citizens must be very verdant, indeed, if they allow themselves