

## 4. DAVID BRIDGFORD, ESQ.

Mr. Bridgford came to this country from the city of New York, when a lad, and settled in this neighbourhood about the year 1800. He served his country as Sergeant in the 1st Regiment of York Militia, in the war of 1812-15, under Lieut-Col. Peter Robinson, and wore a Detroit Medal. He afterwards held a commission as Captain in the Incorporated Militia in 1838-9; and took an active part in the defence of British connection at the time it was threatened by the rebellion of 1837-8. Mr. Bridgford was one who accompanied the late Colonel Moodie down Yonge street, who was shot near Montgomery's Inn, by the sentry of the insurgent forces, then preparing to march on Toronto. Mr. Bridgford made good his escape across the fields, and arrived safe in the city, but was afterwards taken prisoner, on his way home. McKenzie detained him and some others, until the arrival of the Queen's forces from the city became the signal for a stampede by the rebel army. The deceased was elected several times to represent the Township of Vaughan in the District and County Councils. He was at one time a Magistrate of the County of York, but resigned in order to accept the office of Coroner, which he continued to hold until his demise. Mr. Bridgford was an active politician, and warmly attached to the old conservative party. He was an old Freemason, and knew the celebrated anti-mason, Morgan, who is said to have disappeared very mysteriously about forty years ago.—*York Herald.*

## IX. Miscellaneous Friday Readings.

## 1. AUTUMN THANKSGIVING.

[The following beautiful lines are from the pen of Kate Seymour McL., of Ingersoll, Ont., one of the sweetest singers that Canada has as yet produced.]

The purple hills are golden at the top,  
And rounded as a poet's silver rhyme;  
The mellow days are ruby-ripe that drop  
One after one into the lap of Time.

Dead leaves are reddening all the southern slopes,  
And gray and stark, the forest boughs are bare;  
No breath of wind stirs in their hazy tops,—  
Silence and peace are brooding everywhere.

O'er tents of orchard boughs, and purple vines,  
With scarlet flecked—flung like broad banners out  
Along the woodland paths, where low of kine  
Is heard, and echoed by the herd-boy's shout;—

Where the swart ploughman his last furrow turns,  
And whistles as he takes his homeward way,  
While high above the village church-spire burns  
A shaft of flame in the last beams of day.

The long day of the year is almost done.  
And Nature in the sunset musing stands,  
Gray-robed, and violet-hooded like a nun,  
Looking abroad o'er yellow harvest lands;—

Empty and folded are her busy hands;  
Her corn, and wine, and oil are safely stored,  
As in the twilight of the year she stands,  
Her looks of gladness seem to thank the Lord.

Thus let us rest awhile from toil and care,  
In the sweet Sabbath of this autumn calm,  
And lift our hearts to heaven in grateful prayer,  
And sing with Nature our thanksgiving psalm.

## THE QUEEN AND VISCOUNT BURY.

The English papers are loud in praise of Viscount Bury, who, at great personal risk, recently succeeded in saving the life of one of the crew of a small boat which had recently swamped at Mudeford, near Christchurch. In addition to other acknowledgements of his heroic conduct, Lord Bury received the following letter from the Queen, through Sir Thomas Bidolph:—"Balmoral, October 16—Dear Lord Bury—The Queen desires me to express to you the great pleasure which it has given Her Majesty to become acquainted with the details of your most gallant action, and Her Majesty congratulates you on the successful performance of a deed which you will remember with just pride as long as you live. Your companion in the enterprise also deserves the Queen's warmest commendation, and Her Majesty desires me to inquire what can be done for him. Perhaps you will let me know whether it would be desirable to have his name brought forward as you suggested in your letter." The person referred to was a fisherman, who was with Lord Bury.—*Montreal Daily News.*

## 2. EXTENT OF THE BRITISH EMPIRE.

The usual official returns from the British possessions were laid before the Imperial Parliament last session, and have since been printed for circulation. British India heads the list with its vast population of 150,000,000 souls. Its area, however, 988,901 square miles, seems almost small when compared with that of our North American or our Australian possessions. British North America indeed is returned as containing only 632,360 square miles, and a population in 1866 of 4,007,816; the Dominion of Canada, 376,987 square miles, with a population of 3,753,000; Newfoundland, 40,200 square miles and 130,000 people; Prince Edward Island, 2,173 square miles, and 90,000 inhabitants; British Columbia, 213,000 square miles, and 34,816 population in 1861. But this is without reckoning the vast north-west territory waiting to be occupied—territory that brings the extent of British North America up to, perhaps 3,000,000 square miles. Not far behind in extent is Australia, with its 2,582,070 square miles, and a population fast approaching 2,000,000, though only 1,662,063 in the year 1866, to which these completed official returns belong. The extent of Western Australia is 978,000 square miles, a territory nearly as large as British India, but with a population (in 1866) of only 21,065, less than a 7.000th part of that of India; Queensland is returned with 678,060 square miles, and a population of 96,172; South Australia, 383,328 square miles, with a population of 163,452; New South Wales 323,437 square miles, with a population of 431,412; New Zealand, 106,259 square miles, with a population of 208,682; Victoria has been so conspicuous by its great prosperity that many forget its comparatively small extent—86,831 square miles, but with a population of 643,912 in 1866, and now about 700,000; Tasmania comprises 26,205 square miles, with 97,366 inhabitants. The West India islands contain no more than 12,683 square miles, but the population in 1861 was 934,197; Jamaica has half the area, 6,400 square miles, not far from half the population, viz. (in 1861), 441,255. The Cape of Good Hope and Natal add 216,755 square miles, to British possessions, with a population of 759,261; Ceylon, 24,700 square miles, and 2,038,027 people; Mauritius, 708 square miles, and 310,050 of population; British Guinea, 76,000 square miles and 148,026 people (in 1861); Honduras, 13,500 square miles, and (in 1861) 25,635 people. The other colonies and possessions—the Straits Settlements, Hongkong, West African settlements, Labuan, St. Helena, the eight Falklands, Bermuda, Gibraltar, Malta—bring the extent of the possessions of this kingdom beyond sea up to 4,562,000 square miles, and their population to 161,486,000—a number which has increased since the date of these estimates or enumerations. Including the British North-West American possessions, and linking the whole to the mother country, the metropolis of this vast domain, the Queen's realm will be found to comprise territory of about seven millions of English square miles, with a population approaching 200 millions of souls.

## X. Educational Intelligence.

—LINDSAY ROMAN CATHOLIC SEPARATE SCHOOL.—A fine brick structure, now in course of erection. It is beautifully and centrally situated on the corner of Lindsay and Russell streets. The dimensions are as follows:—40 x 60 feet; two stories high; the first, 14 feet between the floors, second 13 feet, each in the clear. The foundation is composed of Bobcaygeon stone in rubble masonry, two feet thick; two course of rock-faced wall in front and north elevations, and capped with a cut stone plinth eight inches thick. The walls are of white brick, fifteen inches thick, laid in English bond. The appearance of the building will be much relieved by pilasters and a front projection two feet ten inches by twelve feet eight inches, which will be surmounted by a belfry, the sides of which will be closed in with venetian frame work, and the roof covered with tin. The great matter of proper ventilation has received much attention. There will be two flues in each side, and each end, four inches from the chimney flues, and eight inches in size, with registers. Hot air registers will also be supplied. The first floor, entered by the front door, will be devoted to the boys; the girls will occupy the second floor, entrance from Russel street. Both departments will be furnished with hard wood chairs and desks of the best style, along with black-boards, globes, maps, &c. Indeed the inside arrangements throughout will exhibit all the modern improvements and conveniences possessed by the best educational institutions of a similar character in the Dominion. For this happy result, the