A Plea for Curling.

Much has been said of late through the medium of your columns in praise of the grand old game of curling. Even the muse has been pressed into service, and in such a way as to shew, that al-

and in such a way as to saw, that at though curlers are a jolly, noisy set of fellows, some of them appear to be also posts of no mean order, especially when their favourite game is the subject.

The object of this communication is to bring the game of ourling under the notice of merchants, clerks and mechanics, of our good town. Many of them require more bodily exercise. Others want what I might be allowed to call mental rest or relaxation. Others require, and wish for, sociality. Others say they sometimes, find it hard to kill time. All these desires can be attained by becoming a curler, viz.: physical exercise, mental or brain rest, sociability in its perfect state, and as for killing time, it kills itself. I believe that drinking a number of what is called "horns" is handy method of making time fly, but on the ice the time is mostly always up too soon, and the next morning tells which is the best method, and as for an appetite, pray do not mention it, for I once heard an old curler say "it makes me as I could eat a cuddy, saddle and brille an at." No John Bull bitters, no coaxing appetites wanted after being on the ice. Many people are under the impression that whiskey and curling go hand in hand. This was the case at one time, but I rejoice to say that bottles of whiskey at the head of each rink during play is now the exception and not the rule; and I may here add that the rules of our covered rink forbid all intoxicating drinks, profane language, or indecent conduct. In curling the greatest equality stone mason, the active weaver, the quiet thinking minister, the humble voter and the M.P. are all on a level. The great the interest taken in the game by all concerned. An on-looker would thin that the fate of nations depended on some of the deciding shots, and when this is done cleverly and according to direction the player suddenly finds himself the object of general admiration. Even the humble lead will look up to him with pride, and regard him with the same feelings as a private soldier would his General

humour. Fut, of course, it is but an aman nature for those who win to laugh loudest.

Care is thrown to the winds and when the sport is over the same goodfellowship prevails. It is remarkable to notice the intense love curlers have for their game. As the tiger scents his prey so does the true curler scent the prospects of a good game. You may find a band of curlers perhaps sixteen in number, all willing and happy to undertake a journey of 10 or 16 miles on one of the coldest and stormiest days of our Canadian winters, and joke and laugh all the way, just for the pleasure of indulging in a game with their brother curlers of some other club. Again, you will find curlers who will hire a man to clean their own sidewalks, shovel in hand, working away with right good will cleaning ice in fond anticipation of a game. Or just meet an old curler on a fine frosty morning, broom in hand, making a bee line for the ice, Tam, Jock and Sandy are waiting for him to play some important match. I do believe he would not step many yards out of his way to shake hands with the Governor-General himself. Many people dread the approach of our long Canadian winter. Not so with curlers. At the first sniff of frosty air their eyes will sparkle, and they will inwardly rejoice in fond anticipation of the coming fun, and although sorry to see the ice melt away, they are just as capable as other mortals of appreciating the glorious summer with its birds, and biossoms and green fields. I would carnestly recommend all those employed at indoor occupations to try curling, just by way of amusement, feeling convinced that the result will be a small outlay for doctor's fees and medicine, and a large return of sound sleep, robust health, good appetite and high spirits. Finally I really think curling would be a good thing for printers, to whom we are so much indebted for our mental food. Then let the mighty we of the Mercury emerge from his sanctum, appear on the ice as an ordinary mortal, and have the happy days of youth brough back again, and whilst

The word husband is composed of two Anglo-Saxon words, hus and bond, mean-ing house-boor.

ing house-boor.
"A prudent man," says a witty Frenchman, "is like a pin; his head prevents him from going too far."
More than half the students in the newly-fledged California University support themselves by manual labor.

port themselves by manual labor.

Five hundred pigeons are kept in the citadel of Strasbourg. They are being trained for service in case of siege.

Charles Lamb, when speaking of one of his rides on horseback, remarked that "all at ones his horse stopped, but he kept right on."

"all at once his horse stopped, but he kept right on."

A new anyora has spring into existence which is supposed to be the dawn of a brighter day for women. It is located near Boston, where a women's community is to be established. The property is to be owned and the affairs of the village nanaged exclusively by women. The first building has been erected, and others are to speedily follow.

A novel amusement in Northern Delaware is crow shooting as a substitute for pigeon matches. The rules and customs are the same in either case. Reedy Island, in the Delaware river, is the favorite roosting ground of the crows, and toward nightfall they congregate there by thousands. When darkness overspreads the island, the catchers enter among the low trees with bags and capture any desired number, simply plucking them from the limbs like so much fruit. The birds cannot fly in the darkness, and even if shaken from their roosts, they cling to the first object that comes within reach. It is said that a man standing beneath the tree from which the birds are shaken, with outstretched arms, will soon be covered with them.

AILWAY TIME TABLE.

GRAND TRUNK RAILWAY.
Trains leave Guelph as follows:

2:17 a.m.; 9:45 a.m.; 1:50 p.m., 6:00 p.m.*, 8:3; p.m.; *To London, Goderich and Detroit. || To Berlin. | 3:05 a.m; 8:10 a.m; 11 a.m; 4:12 p.m; and 8:33

GREAT WESTERN-GUELPH BRANCH Going south-6:40 a m; 1 pm; 230 pm Going south—6:40 a m; 1 pm; 230 p m; and 439 p.m. Going north—11:55 a m for Southampton; mixed 1:40 m for Palmerston; 6 p m for Fergus; 9:30 p m for Forgus.

Commercial.

| Guelph Market | ts. | |
|------------------------------|------|--------|
| MERCURY OFFICE, | Mai | ch 14. |
| Flour, per 100 lbs83 00 | to | \$3 50 |
| Fall Wheat, per 100 lbs 1 95 | to | 2 05 |
| Treadwell do 1 90 | to | 1 95 |
| Spring Wheat do 1 80 | to | 1 85 |
| Oats do 1 14 | to | 1 17 |
| Peas do 1 00 | to | 1 03 |
| Barley, new, do 2 45 | to | 2 50 |
| Hay, per ton 12 00 | to | 15 00 |
| Straw 3 00 | to | 5 00 |
| Wood, per cord 4'00 | to | 4 50 |
| Eggs, per dozen 12 | to | 14 |
| Butter, dairy packed 20 | to | 22 |
| Butter, rolls 30 | to | 32 |
| Potatoes, per 100 lbs 50 | to | 75 |
| Apples, per 100 lbz 60 | · to | 1 00 |
| Dressed Hogs, per cwt 6 50 | to | 7 40 |
| Beaf, per cwt 4 00 | to | 7 50 |

Toronto Markets.

| TORONTO | . Me | rch | 12 |
|--------------------------------|------|--------|----|
| Fall Wheat, per bushel.\$1 24 | to | 81 | 30 |
| Spring Wheat do 1 15 | to | 1 | 16 |
| Barley do 1 35 | to | 1 | 36 |
| Oats do 45 | to | | 46 |
| Peas do 00 | to | | 70 |
| Dressed Hogs per 100 lbs. 7 25 | to | 7 | 50 |
| Butter, lb rolls 35 | to | | 38 |
| Butter, tub dairy 37 | to | | 38 |
| Eggs, fresh, per doz 18 | to | | 20 |
| Apples, per barrel 2 50 | to | 3 | 00 |
| Potatoes, per bush 50 | to | 101573 | 00 |
| Hay, per ton 19 03 | to | 25 | 00 |
| Straw do15 00 | to | | |

| 3 | Hammon Mark | GL | D. |
|---|--------------------------------|-----|--------|
| 3 | Hamilton, | Mar | ch 11. |
| 8 | White wheat, per bushel.\$1 20 | to | \$1 23 |
| 1 | Treadwelldo 1 18 | to | |
| a | Beihl 0 00 | to | 0 00 |
| 1 | Red wheat 1 15 | to | |
| 3 | Spring wheat do 1 10 | to | 1 14 |
| ۹ | Oats | to | 41 |
| 4 | Peas | to | 68 |
| 4 | Barley 1 30 | to | 1 85 |
| 2 | Corndo 00 | to | 00 |
| 9 | Buckwheatdo 53 | to | 55 |
| ۹ | Clover 5 25 | to | 5 25 |
| 1 | Timothydo 3 00 | to | 4 00 |
| a | Butter, fresh, per lb 25 | to | . 40 |
| 9 | Apples, per bag 1 00 | to | 25 |
| ı | Apples, per bag 1 00 | to | 1 25 |
| • | Potatoesdo 80 | to | 1 00 |

Special Notices.

As NUMEROUS CASES OF

POISONING

BY CONTROL OF THE STATE OF THE S

\$5 to \$20 PER DAY. Agents war

TAMES CORMACK,

TAILOR and CLOTHIER

NO. 1, WYNDHAM STREET. Has now on hand a superior stock of

FRENCH, SCOTCH, ENGLISH

-AND-

CANADIAN

WOOLENS

Suitable for the Fall and Winter.

FRENCH COATINGS

A speciality this Season.

Of Gents' Furnishing Goods;

Also a large and well selected stock of Ready made Clothing at very low prices.

JAMES CORMACK, wd No. 1, Wyndham Street, Guelph.

NEW GOODS,

NEW GOODS

Just received, a large and carefully select d stock of articles suitable

FOR THE YOUNG FOLKS

BERLIN WOOLS And all kinds of Fancy Goods in stock a

All orders promptly attended to.

MRS. WRIGHT, Upper Wyndam St., next to the Wellingto notel. Guslph, Dec. 24th, 1873. dw

SEWING MACHINES FOR SALE. Porsale, several first-class. Sewing Machines, different makers, all new cheap foash. Apply at the Menoury Office.

DOMINION SALOON

RESTAURANT.

Opposite the Market, Guelph.
Oystera in their season. First-class acommodation for supper parties.
GEOMGE BOOKLESS, Proprietor.
Guelph, Oct. 31, 1873

Elephant Clothing Store.

C. E. PEIRCE & CO.

Just Received a splendid new stock of

HATS AND CAPS!

C. E. PEIRCE & CO.,

Hepburn's Old Stand, Wyndham-st., Guelph.

"Pav as You Go."

Good Doctrine: first rate: Admirable Philosophy: more d sense and economy in these few words than most people ware of. If you take a paper, pay as you go—your butcher, bake allor, shoemaker, pay as you go. It is a philosopher's stone. We wish it was impressed on some people's hearts with a sledge hammer.

WE HAVE JUST RECEIVED

A large lot of Ladies', Misses and Child-ren's Prunellas,

SOLD AT THE LOWEST CASH PRICE.

Purchasers will do well to call and examine our stock and prices, before pu

CUSTOM WORK A SPECIALTY

All work made in the latest styles. A perfect fit guaranteed. Customers can have a last kept specially for themselves. Repairing done as usual.

Remember the House—The Dominion Shoe Store, Day's Block, opposite the

Guelph, Feb. 9, 1874

WM. TAWSE & SON.

${ t JACKSON \& HALLETT}$ IMPORTERS.

Wholesale and Retail Grocers, etc.

New Fruits, Teas, Coffees

New Table Raisins, New Valencia Raisins, New Currants,

New Figs, Almonds, Nuts, etc.

THAS THAS

| Choice Gunpowder Tea at 50 cents per lb. |
|---|
| Choice Young Hyson Teaat 50 cents per lb. |
| Superior Young Hyson Teaat 75 cents per lb. |
| Finest Young Hyson Teaat \$1 per 1b. |
| Choice Fresh Black Teasat 50 cents per lb. |
| Finest Fresh Black Teasat 75 cents per lb. |
| Selected Japan Teasat 75 cents per lb. |
| Reduction to parties taking a box. |

Also, our own importations of genuine Brandies, Wines, Scotch and Irish Whiskies wholesale and retail.

JACKSON & HALLETT.

Lower Wyndham-street, Guelph.

FIRST PRIZEBISCUITS

JAMES MASSIE.

Manufacturer of

CHOICE CONFECTIONERY AND BISCUITS,

Invitestheattention of the Trade to the Superior Quality of 6 lods now produced at Manufactory Having introduced many new improvements, and employing only first-class workinen, and possessing every facility, he is prepared to supply the trade with a class of goods unsurpassed by any manufacturer in

Attention of the Trade to be actor, Having introduced many sectors working, and possessing over, the trade with a class of goods unsurpasse.

OZENGĖS, sil flavors;

DROPS, assorted flavors and shapes;

GUM and LICORICE DROPS,

CONVERSATION LOZENGES,

MOULDED SWEETS, new patterns;

SODA, SWEET and FRUIT BISCUITS,

FRUIT BISCUITS,

GINGER NUIS,

CHEWING GUM,

ROCK CANDY,

LICORICE.

A Large Stock of Choice and Favorite Brand Cigars. His Biscuits took the first prize over all others at the London Western only place where they were entered for competition. All Goodscarefully packed and shipped with despatch

The Oldest Hardware Business in the County

BOND 8 M. DIRECT HARDWARE IMPORTERS,

CATTLE CHAINS of over fifty different kinds, and made

specially to our order. GRAIN SHOVELS-Polished steel and iron.

HALF BUSHEL MEASURES-Stamped and warranted correct.

TUBULAR LANTERNS-To burn coal oil. The best lantern made; cannot be put out by the strongest wind, and burns bright and clear.

WARRANTED PLATFORM SCALES—Weighing beams, steel

yards. Every farmer needs a scals to weigh his produce. A good one will save twice its cost in 1 year. CHOPPING AXES-Made to order from several makers, and

over thirty-five different kinds. CROSS CUT SAWS, with teeth of various shapes. Butting Saws for cutting hardwood. We have saws of all kinds from approved makers. Sausage Meat Cutters

With every article usually kept in a first-class Hardware Store

JOHN M. BOND & Co., Guelph, Ont. and on reasonable terms. Apply to



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Consisting of Sixteen of the Best Equipped and fastest steamships in the world, Sailing from New York every Thursday and Saturday.

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LSO, Agent for the

Michigan Central and Erie Railroad Passengers booked to all points in the

MARKET-SQUARE, GUELPH.



Steamship Line

GUEBPH AGENCY

Prepaid pessage certificates issued.

G. A. OXNARD,

HART & SPIERS.

reyancers, Land, Loan, Insurar and General Agents, 4 Day's Block, Guelph.

Block, Guelph.

In reference to the above, Wm. Hart begs to inform his friends and the public that he has entered into partnership with Mr. Jas. Spiers in the above business, and while expressing his grateful acknowledgments for the liberal share of patronage bestowed upon him for the past three years, would sespectfully solicit a continuance of the same to the new from.

Deads, Mortagass, Wills, Leases, etc. etc.

Money always on hand in sums to suit borrowers, on mortagase or good personal security. No delay or extravagant charges. Our list of Town and Farm Property is large and varied, and parties in want of real state of any kind should call on us before purchasing elsewhere.

Agents for the Concercial Union Assurance Company of London, England.

HART & SPIERS, 1504.

Guelph Bakery,

Two doors above the Wellington Hotel. W. J. LITTLE

While thanking the public generally for the liberal pattonage heretofore bestowed upon him, would respectfully inform them that he is still prepared to supply them with all tinds of

Biscuits, Pastry, Bride's Cakes,

and Confectionery of every description. Bread, plain and fancy, always on hand and delivered. *Guelph, Oct. 17, 1873 W. J. LITTLE, dw



\$1,000,00000 In Valuable Gifts!

L. D. SINE'S

GIFT ENTERPRISE To be drawn MONDAY, MARCH 30th, 1374

ONE GRAND CAPITAL PRIZE

\$10,000 IN GOLD
One Prize, \$5,000 in Silver
Five prizes \$1,000 each in greenbacks
Five prizes \$500 each in greenbacks
Two Family Carriages and Matched Horses
with Silver-mounted Harness, worth
\$1,500 each.
Two Buggies, Horses, etc., worth \$000 each.
Two fine toned Rosewood Planes, worth
\$550 each.
Ten Family Sewing Machines, worth

Nümber of gitts 10,000. Tickes innites as
50,000 AGENTS WANTED to sell Tickets, to
whom liberal premiums will be paid.
Single tickets, \$20; six tickets, \$20 twolvetickets, \$20; twenty-five, \$40.
Circulars containing a full list of prizes, a
description of the manner of drawing, and
other information in reference to the distribution, will be sent to any one ordering
them. All letters must be addressed to
MAIN OFFICE, L. D. SINE, box 86,
101 W. Fifth-st. Cincinnati, O.

GUELPH Marble Works.

The undersigned will furnish Grave Stones, Monuments, Tablets or Posts

As cheap as any dealer in the Do Granite Monuments or Headstones

IMPORTED TO ORDER. ALFRED S. FEAST. polwich street, above Bruce's Carriag Works, Guelph.

my29 Works, Gueipli.

TARM FOR SALE—100 acros, being lots, con. 8, Puslinck, 80 in a good state of cultivation, remainder in bush, good frame buildings, with both hard and soft water, good orchard of large fruit trees, 13 acres of fall wheat in the ground, 90 acres fall plughing done. The farm is one lot from the Brook Read. Will be sold cheap and on reasonable terms. Apply to James

NMAN LINE | THE GUELPH

Mercury and Adverting

At the Factory, Oxford st.,

Spring Beds, Mattrasses, &c. Having large facilities for making Furni-ure, they are in a position to offer every nducement in the way of fresh new goods, new designs, and best of finish, all at low

orices.
Also, all kinds of ordered Work, Uphol tering, &c., done at the shortest notice.
BURR & SKINNER,
Guelph. Jan 27, 1874.

OPPOSITE THE MARKET.

Toys, Dolls, and a general stock of

BERLIN WOOLS IN ALL SHADES All of which will be sold at and below cos Orders received for Hair Jewellery. I. & J. ANDREWS, Guelph, Jan. 13th, 1874.

DRINT DEPARTMENT.

JOHN MACDONALD & CO.

CHOICE PRINTS From the Le ading Printers.

TORO.YTO.

POWELL'S

Call and examine my new stock of Ladies', Gents' & Children's

Custom Work and Repairing.

West side Wyndham Street. Guelph.

TO THE OWNERS AND BREEDERS OF HORSES AND OTHER DOMES-TIC ANIMALS.

on the diseases of borses and cattle aiding you for your past favors, an illing your future patronage. I am, gentlement Your bediently, E. A. A. GRANGE, V.S. slph, Jan. 0th 1874.

GENTS WANTED. JUST OUT, a new and beautifully coloured Map of the Dominion,

ly will reap and state was developed for terms, and state was advertisement.

JAMES CHURCHILL, Toronto

Oak for sale, 2 and 3 inch plank se

ing and tongues.
Aprly at THE MERCURY OFFICE.

SPECIAL NOTICE.
All contracts expiring on the 31, t Dec. if enewed are subject to our revised rates.

RURNITURE AT RETAIL.

BURR & SKINNER

FURNITURE

GREAT CHEAP SALE At I. & J. Andrews FANCY STORE.

CONSISTING OF SLIPPER PATTERNS

FANCY GOODS.

Are showing an immense stock of

JOHN MACDONALD & Co.

HALL AND WINTER, 1873-4.

Boot and Shoe Store

BOOTS & SHOES.

Guelph, Feb. 18th, 1874.

GENTLEMEN.—

GENTLEMEN.—

Having been appointed Assistant Demonstrator of Anatomy in the Ontario Veterinary, Toronto, I find it necessary it be absent from my practice for severa days in each week during the wine months, but I will return to Guelph ever Friday evening, and remain at Coghlam Union Hotel, Macdonell street, until the following Monday, where I can be consulted the diseases of borses and cattle of the disease of the