Huron Signal.

GODERICH, DEC. 28, 1865.

The Resignation of Hon. George Brown.

The country was taken completely by surprise on the 19th inst., by the announcement that the Hon. George Brown had resigned his seat in the Cabinet. The Wentworth election excitement elicited the fact that between that gentleman and Hon. J. A. Macdonald there was a feeling inimical to the harmony which should exist in the minds of the leading spirits of an administration, but we were quite unprepared for the sudden explosion which has taken place. The cause of Mr. Brown's resignation is not clearly known by the public. Hereabouts, many think the Bruce appointments had something to do with it. It is known that Mr. Dickson was at Ottawa for the supposed purpose of pressing the appointment of Mr. Rastall as Sheriff of Bruce, and hence rumor seized at once upon a rejection of the appointment by conservative members as a cause for Mr. Brown's action. We do not think this will prove to be well founded. Important as the matter is to Messrs, Sutton and Rastall, it is highly improbable that a cabinet minister would resign in consequence of it. The hint in both *Leader* and *Globe* of Thursday that a difference of opinion on the Reciprocity question led to the rupture, is probably nearer the truth. No doubt the facts will leak out ere long. In the meantime, the feeling throughout the country will be far from an agreeable one. We may say that it is evidently Mr. Brown's intention to give the government a *general* support.

THE GRAND TRUNK RAILWAY.

Up to the present time the Grand Trunk Railway Company has been the *best abused* institution in America. Vast as were the benefits it conferred upon the Province, as an only means of transit during the long winter months the corruption connected with its construction and the efforts of some of its managers to control the legislature, gave rise to severe, and, in many instances, deserved denunciation. But a marked change is observable in the tone of the press concerning it, under the management of Mr. Bridges. At the present moment, when the consolidation of British American interests is the main topic before the country, and the abrogation of the Reciprocity Treaty a *probable* contingency, it is useless to deny that the Grand Trunk Railway presents itself before us in a new and important light.—While the nearest American ports remained open to us we felt comparatively independent of the longer route, but if our trade is to be diverted into new channels, it is obvious that the Grand Trunk *must be the great connecting link*. During the fall months, if the canals are enlarged, as they should be, a large portion of the grain of Western Canada would find its way down the St. Lawrence by vessel, and a considerable quantity af our heavy goods brought back by the same mears, but there would still be business enough to tax the carrying capacity of the road to the utmost in order to keep up with the wants of the country. *Without the Grand Trunk we should be completely at the mercy of American tariffs.* With it, and the improvement of the navigation of our noble St Lawrence, we can go on and prosper even though our American cousins *should* decide upon a Japanese policy which is so unworthy of an age of free trade and commercial development. The people of this section have manifested a spirit of opposition to the railway since its virtual absorption of the Buffalo and Lake Huron, because they felt that their interests were being sacrificed for the American through traffic via Sarnia, but Mr. Bridges seems to have changed his policy materially in favor of legitimate home traffic, nearly all the rolling stock being engaged since last fall in the transport of *Canadian* stock and grain. The demand for cars, however, has been so great that many persons havesuffered, and many complaints are still heard, but a step has been taken in the right direction, and we hope ere another season comes round that facilities will be provided for the speedy transport of all the produce our inland farmers can raise. Let him once accomplish that, and we can assure Mr. Brydges he will hear less grumbling, and meet with less opposition in carrying out schemes having for their object the welfare of the country and the interests of the Company. When he was in Goderich, Mr. Brydges said he would encourage such Lake routes as might be shown to be of permanent value to his road. At the time, his words were considered rather non-committal, but we have now an evidence of his good faith in the fact that when the importance of the shore route, i. e. Goderich and Saugeen, and the Goderich and Saginaw line was clearly pointed out, he at once pledged himself to a policy calculated to develope those routes to the utmost possible extent.—Commercially, this arrangement will be of vast advantage to Goderich, and if Mr. Brydges will carry it out in perfect good faith, which we have no reason to doubt, he will meet with the approval of nearly every property holder in the town and vicinity. As a proof of the desire of the Company to encourage our manufactures in other respects, we may mention that arrangements are now being made for a direct trade in flour between Goderich and New Brunswick, by rail, and we have no doubt but the same privileges would be extended to other millers along the line, if necessary. All this is encouraging, and we trust nothing will occur to change the better opinion our tradesmen are beginning to form of a railway which may, by carrying out a liberal policy, so much towards assisting them in the developing the great resources of the Country.

In a long and favorable article upon the Grand Trunk Railway, our staunch reform contemporary, the Berlin *Telegraph* says:—

"Since its chief management has been placed under the control of Mr. Brydges, all must admit that its affairs have assumed a much more prosperous aspect, and the public have been better served, while the condition of the line, especially during the last few years, has been very greatly improved. Indeed, we were very much surprised to learn upon what we consider undoubted authority, that within the last five years over 517 miles of new rails have been laid down. This has re laid more than half the entire length of the line. There have also been laid within the same period 1,750,000 new ties, which is about equal to entirely re laying with sleepers of 800 miles of the road, or within about 250 miles of the whole line. It is also proposed, we understand, to put in annually a sufficient number of ties, so as to place the road in a thoroughly sound condition. With in the last three years about 390 miles of new rails have been laid, and it is contemplated to put in 100 miles every year for some time to come, which in this respect, must render the road a very safe thoroughfare for travellers. And here we should state that the ties now and hereafter to be used, are all much larger and of better material than they were originally; while the new rails that are being laid, and which are manufactured at Toronto, are heavier than those used heretofore. We also understand that the company are experimenting in regard to the use of iron rails with steel heads, and these will in all probability be found to supersede the others before long. These improvements have involved the large outlay of £500,000 sterling, or about $2 500,000, in addition to the ordinary expenses of working the line."

ANOTHER DINNER.

On Wednesday evening last, at half-past 4 o'clock, His Honor Judge Cooper treated his brother magistrates and the bar of Goderich and vicinity to one of those elegant dinners for which 'Joe Wright' of the Huron is so famous. We noticed present, besides the learned host, His Worship Mayor Detlor, Sheriff McDonald, Mr. D. Lizars, Clerk of the Peace, and Messrs. M. C. Cameron, Sinclair, Jno. Mosely, C. Crabb, H. Johnstone, Clerk County Court, L. Chandler, G. Johnstone, P. F. Walker, Gordon, McDermott, Moore, Toms, I. Lewis, County Attorney, Yeomans, Davison, Pollock, Macara, Haldane, Lefroy, Horton, Hazlehurst, Trainer and W. T. Cox. The dinner, which comprised every article that aldermanic or legal taste could desire, was enjoyed in the hilarious fashion so destructive of the interests of doctors, and when the *debris* was cleared away, the usual loyal toasts were given and responded to right heartily. The toast of 'Our Host' was given and enthusiastically received. In his response, the Judge, from his heart, we believe, breathed peace and good will towards all men, notwithstanding the enmity of those who were against him. He was, however, assured by Mr. Cameron and others that, *personally*, he had not a single enemy in town. Mr. Detlor made a very sensible speech, and Messrs. Gibbons, Crabb, Haldane, Cameron and others spoke to the point and well. The pleasant little re-union broke up about 8 o'clock, "happy to meet, sorry to part, and *hoping* to meet again."

Real Estate looking up.

We have not seen so many sales of real estate for a number of years as during the past few months. Farm and other real property to the value of many thousands of dollars has been advertised in our columns, and in nearly every case a sale has been affected at fair rates. Formerly, it was only occasionally that a lot could be sold at all, and very few troubled themselves to make a trial, the result of which was pretty sure to be a bill of expense. Money, however, is more plentiful now, and the improved prospects of the farmer has so far enhanced the price of good land, that many are availing themselves of the opportunity. The bulk of the land sales hereabouts are made by Mr. Trueman, whose long residence and thorough acquaintance with the country render his services of much value. We can confidently recommend him as a capital auctioneer or land agent to parties within the County, or at a distance. As a medium for advertising property of this kind, the *Signal* is unsupassed by any local paper in Upper Canada, and we shall be happy to prove to intending advertisers, at any time, that our circulation is as extensive as it is represented to be.

School Examinations.

The examination of the public schools of this town took place on Thursday and Friday last. The weather was unpropitious, and the attendance of parents, trustees, and others not what might have been hoped for under more favorable circumstances. The attendance during the past term at the Ward schools and primary departments of the Central School has been fair, and the progress, we believe, very satisfactory; but to form anything like a correct judgment as to the *general* status of the schools, it is, of course, necessary to inspect with particularity the higher classes, as these exhibit all that the institution is capable of performing. We were very much pleased with the proficiency displayed by the scholars under Miss Walker's charge. The branches taught seem to have been thoroughly impressed upon the minds of the pupils, who were very prompt indeed in answering questions in geography, grammar, arithmetic, &c. In the latter branch much attention has been paid to mental arithmetic, and the promptness with which considerable sums were wrought in the minds of little boys and girls might almost lead one to suspect that they had learned them by rote, but we are assured that this is not the case, the astonishing progress witnessed being the result of careful training. We were glad to find that the reading in this department was more easy and natural than formerly, a point of great importance.—Miss Walker is one of our most energetic and popular teachers and we are glad to be able to report that her efforts seem to have been crowned with abundant success. The department taught by Mr. James Thompson displays also every mark of solid progress. The pupils are cleanly and bright looking, and seem to appreciate intelligently the efforts made by their master to instil into their minds the rudiments of knowledge which must be so useful in after life as a basis for ripened character and experience. In this department, as in all the others, the writing was excellent. Indeed, we think the Central School of Goderich has few superiors in this important particular. The higher classes were examined in person on Friday by Mr. Cameron, the principal, and the exhibition was indeed a gratifying one. We saw here what the school is capable of doing for so many children, who, having gone through every grade of its curriculum are now prepared for the grammar school, or progress in future self-instruction, under the most favorable circumstances. Our school system is doing a good work, notwithstanding its costliness, and if the ratepayers of the town would take the trouble to visit the schools they would, we think, come to the conclusion that there is here something to show for their money. It is true that the streets of Goderich are infested by very bad boys, but a little investigation will prove that this idle and vicious class, which embraces so many candidates for gaol, penitentiary and reformatory, is made up of youths who *do not attend school at all*. To protect itself Society should enact laws to *compel* parents to see after the education of their children, if they have not sufficient ambition to do so of their own accord.

GODERICH GRAMMAR SCHOOL.

This school was examined on Friday last. The day was quite stormy, and the attendance of visitors very limited in consequence. We are happy to say that the number of pupils is larger than on former occasions, but the attendance is still much below what it should be. Mr. Haldan is a very proficient teacher, and his pupils, in so far as a sound education can contribute to such a result, have almost invariably succeeded in life. Those now under his instruction are very promising youths, and we need only say that they acquitted themselves extremely well under a searching examination.

☞ The latest we have with regard to Mr. Brown's resignation is that Sir John Mitchel has refused to accept of it for the present.

☞ Printers are only mortal, and as the holidays make a break in our arrangements, we have to apologise for the non-appearance, this week, of a lot of correspondence on hand. All we ask is a week's indulgence, in this respect.

A Daring Act.

On the 21st inst., about 2 o'clock a. m., in the midst of a snow-storm, the fishing boat *Whirlwind*, Capt. Caughell, arrived in Goderich harbor from Saugeen. When we consider that the little open boat was heavily laden with fish, and that Capt. Caughell's crew consisted of one half-breed more than half drunk, it will be deemed the most foolhardy exploit that has taken place on our coast.

A RAID.

A party of gentlemen, having a desire to restrain vice and advance the interests of morality, we presume, made a raid upon a house of ill-fame in this town on Christmas night, smashed the windows, broke furniture, scattered the inmates, and made a pretty clean sweep generally. The assailants are to be up at the police court to-morrow, (Wednesday) at one o'clock, when, of course, the particulars will be made known.

☞ We have still another letter from Mr Longworth. We print it, not because we think it likely to influence ratepayers in their choice of councillors, but to leave no room for the author to complain of not getting fair play. Mr. Longworth's chirography, &c., is so very peculiar that we are compelled to throw aside ordinary rules and instruct the printer to give his letter *verbatim et literatim*, only omitting what we thank a gross libel on Mr. Smaill.

LITERARY.

We have received from Messrs Chewett & Co. of Toronto, the regular number of Loudan Society, as well as the extra Christmas copy. The latter is a magnificent affair specially adapted for holiday perusal, and as such worthy of attention.

LONDON QUARTERLY.—The Contents of the October number are: Cathedrals of England, The Mariner's Compass, The Resources, Condition and Prospects of Italy, The Poetry of Praed and Lord Houghton, Blind People, Field Sports of the Ancient Greeks and Romans, The Gallician Church, The Russians in Central Asia.

WESTMINSTER REVIEW.—The October No of this ablest of all the Quarterlies contains the following articles: Personal Representation, Rationalism in Europe, Capacities of Women, Palgrave's Travels in Arabia, The Doctrines of Nationalities and Schleswig Holstein, Mr Grote's Plato, Letters from Egypt. Contemporary Literature. Republished by L Scott & Co. of New York. See advertisement.

The Very Latest from Ottawa.

OTTAWA, Dec. 20, 3 p m.

Mr. Brown's retirement is understood to be in consequence of disagreement with his colleagues as to the proper course to be pursued in reference to Reciprocity.—Mr. Brown is opposed to all his colleagues, and chose retirement rather than assume the responsibility of adopting their views. No other cause of disagreement exists. Mr. Brown will cordially support the Government on Confederation and general policy.

☞ Mr. Stevens, a justice of the peace at Barrie, received a Christmas present the other night—a live baby, three months old, which was snugly deposited at his door.

☞ The barn of Mr Morris Howson, of Norwood, with about $1,000 worth of grain, hay, &c, and detroyed by fire on Monday night—insured only for trifling amount.

GODERICH, Dec. 26th, 1865.

To the Editor of the HURON SIGNAL!

In your last issue Mr. Longworth asserts in his interesting epistle "that the Clerk of the Council keeps no accounts."—Without taking up your space I would just say that that statement is false. I keep a regular account of all moneys voted by the Council, and for what purpose—which Mr. Longworth or any of the ratepayers are at liberty to see by calling at my office, which, for the information of Mr. Longworth, is situated on the corner of the Market Square and North Street.

I remain, with respect,

JAMES THOMSON,
Town Clerk.

MR. EDITOR,—Would you ask for an answer to the following question:—Does the absence of the Trustees from the examination yesterday and to-day (21st and 22d), express a qualification of judging of the progress of the scholars and the faithfulness of the teachers.

ONE INTERESTED.

Letther till John Langworth Eskware.

DERR JOHNNY, begorra bud av ye hould on ye'll mak a roction in town yit wid yer letthers in the *Signale*, and yer statyutes, and yer ripin an' tarin up av the ould bones av munycipal sins. Arah mavourneen, an its proud I am till see a counthryman, av iddycation an' refoinment, so death on spakia an' ritin, an' statyutes, an bribery an korruption. Betune ourselves I'm alther thinkin such taldents as yees displa is throne away in Gotherish. Faix an its ritin in the *Globe* yees ought to be, an as I'm pertikerly akuainted wid me counthryman George Brown, av ye'll jist tip the wink I'll rite till him an see av he wants a frish han at the bellows. Av Gordy's goin till thro awa the milk an wather an take a turn at the pitchin in stile, an bribery an korrupshun ye'll be worth yer wate in somethin bether thin faynian bonds till him. Yer last letther which I red in Craigses hotil be the lite av a pint av ould rie, was a tarer.—Beda I sez I Johnny's on till the korporashun like Pat Shaughnessy's bull dog on the blinc piper, an av the kernel's not claned now its not for want of a good stirin up av the litther. Howsum diver ye'll excuse a frind av he tells ye that yer spellins not egsackly what wus'd expict from the Boord av Oidiance, an people are hintin, honey, that a man that's run for Minister av Parlement, an him at the hed av the iddycashun av the town so long, an cettery, ought till spell decompozion wid too zees; bud bull scrun till them they've neither respict for age nor gratitud for past savyces. Wishin ye a merry crismas, an more power till yer elbo, I'm yer frind an admirer,

BARNEY BRALLIGAN.

Huron Teachers' Association.

The third regular meeting of this body was held in the Clinton School House on the 23rd inst. The President, H. D. Cameron, in the chair.

After the minutes of last meeting were read and approved of, several communications were read, the most important of which were two from the County Clerk and one from Dr. Ryerson, chief superintendent of education, in reference to the appointment of a county superintendent. In this letter Dr. Ryerson says that he hopes that before the expiring of the term of office of the present superintendents, that that part of the act limiting the number of schools to be put under the charge of one superintendent to one hundred, shall be repealed.

The various communications were then considered in order. Those from the County Clerk requiring no answer or action were received and filed.

The secretary was instructed to communicate the part of Dr. Ryerson's letter relative to the County Superintendent to the County Council, in connection with the petition about to be presented. The Association having learned that the Chief Superintendent is to make his quinquential official tour of the Province this winter, resolved that an address be presented to him on the occasion of his visiting this county. The President appointed Messrs. Dewar, McShea and Shaw a committee to prepare the address.

The different committees appointed at last meeting presented their respective reports. The report of the committee on text-books, was considered in detail in committee of the whole, Mr. Dewar in the chair. This committee presented a carefully prepared report, the consideration of which elicited a very important and interesting discussion. The report was adopted with slight amendments. The committee then rose and reported. The association approved of the diligence of the committee, and instructed them to proceed with their labors until they would complete an examination of the various books now in use and those offered for introduction into our schools. As the report is one of much importance we hope that the Association will publish it.

The committee appointed to prepare a petition to the County Council presented their report. From which it appeared that the petition was signed by over 400 persons, over 60 of whom were teachers and nearly 100 trustees, and among the others were the most prominent men in the county. Some sections had not been visited at all, and from others nothing has yet been heard. It was recommended in the report that the association recommend some suitable person to the Council who is fitted to fill the proposed office of County Superintendent. The report was adopted, and the Association balloted for the nominee to the County Council, the result of which was unanimously agreed upon by those present.

The discussion upon "The Relation between Teachers and Trustees," adjourned at last meeting, was resumed. The Association unanimously agreed upon the following resolution, viz:—That it is the opinion of this Association that it would advance the interests of education and add to the permanency of teachers if Boards of Trustees be elected for every municipality instead of trustees for each section as at present, such Board to consist of two trustees for each ward, one half of which should retire every year, and that the engagement of a teacher be considered a permanent appointment (not requiring renewal every year as at present) unless a majority of the Board decide upon dismissing him, such dismissal requiring 1ways, at least, 3 months notice,

It was agreed that the subject of discussion at next meeting be, "What is the best curriculum for our common schools?"

The Association then adjourned to meet again in Goderich on the last Saturday in April, 1866.

Spiritual and Moral Reasoning.

BY THE AUTHOR.

The Jews are defending themselves under the complicated laws of Moses. Mahomet's followers defend themselves under the written laws of the ancient coran, declaiming there is but one God holding all power, both in heaven and earth. Whilst the Holy Catholic Church is defending all the powerful doctrines of the Christian faith. Each tenet, and sect, holding good their pursuits by language powerful, lively and interesting, appealing to faith, recorded in the sacred writings of ancient and modern History. Some contend that man has a free will uncontrolled by God; while the scholars of John Calvin ingeniously declare that God governs all things, wills all things, and directs that will to his own purpose. Some are for seeking salvation for their souls under the strict purity of faith, while others contend that good works alone will help them to Heaven. I shall not urge anything from my own opinion that will tend to widen the breach between grace and works, between predestination and election, or spend my time in solving the revelations of either. I shall stick to my text, that we should not pray to God to keep us steadfast to any faith, only on condition that it is a good one. All this reminds me of two mighty and hostile nations in arms, employing all their implements of destruction, each alike relying on the justice of their cause, but which of the two has the better claim to it, is not in the power of human imagination to determine. The same uncertainty remains in matters of religious faith. The rich divine, in the element of his vain glory, builds a chapel near to his country seat, furnishes it with luxurious conveniences for prayers that will never be said, while the poor man in his humble cot kneels at his bed-side, says his prayers and gets to Heaven before him. Nor do I believe that God in the pure and infinite discharge of His goodness will punish societies all together, because they attest to any particular tenet, that bears reference, or union, with the sacred writings of the Holy Bible. *The soul that sins shall surely die. There can be no restraint put upon the opinion of men* as his mind is *entirely his own*. Nor will all opinions ever be brought to run in the same current of belief. Conscience is certainly influenced by conviction, whether it be well or ill grounded; yet every man has a prudent and faithful admonitor that will inform him of all his doings, whether they be good or whether they be evil, as every man's heart is his best prayer-book! But what is man, in all the lofty elements of his dignified stature on earth, but a mere atom in God's vast Creation? whose words are all works, and whose works are all wonders. We cannot expand beyond the limits of our own system, still we go on extending our muscles and employing the strongest faculties of our minds towards developing some new discoveries in the mysterious works of God, until our imaginations are entirely buried in the wild mazes of obscurity. We then give up our pursuits and lay ourselves down to rest, and the next day we again renew our exertions to as little purpose. We then lounge on our couch dissatisfied, whereas we had better mind our moral duties, and let truth and reason claim their allotted portions of praise with us, filling all the offices of this life under the immediate direction and influence of those virtuous guides, trusting that all things under Heaven is working for our general good. The ambition of wealth hath caused much division and contention among mankind, yet it is *not the root of all evil*, as some contend, as a truly wise and virtuous man will rather strive to fill his mind than his coffers, reflecting that gold and silver was once mixed with the dirt of the earth until avarice and ambition divided them, and we have still among us men of the most refined powers, who administer good counsel to thousands and endeavor by their own personal exertions to reclaim as many as they address, and although they fail in their attempts, they are not the less to be esteemed, as it is the attempt and not the effect that must stamp the value. Faith is certainly the conviction of weak minds as well as strong, but true religion is of a pure and spiritual nature. We certainly may allow great numbers of men to be good neighbors, good husbands, and good patriots without being good Christians, as different men are tinctured with different vices. In truth, there are so many critical niceties to be attended to in the discharge of our duty, that the least error of the times, either in the favor we have to confer, the time of confering it, the extent of the obligation, &c., makes wide breaches in society and ends in much mischief, and we must have a due regard to all those niceties to live up to the strict rules of discretion. If we are as anxious to increase our virtue as we are to increase our fortunes it would be much better for us; however, let us follow the wise dictates of reason and live up to the strict rules of truth and virtue, leaving the rest to be completed by the strong Power of One all wise Being, who orders all things for the best.

EDUCATION.

ITS PROGRESS IN GODERICH TOWNSHIP.

On Friday the 22nd instant, the school taught by Mr. Geo. Campbell (S. S. No. 5) was examined by the Trustees. A good number of the parents were present, as also other visitors. Notwithstanding the very stormy day the attendance was very large.—In all the branches taught, there was a marked and steady improvement—and it would be difficult to particularize any one branch or class. Every one present appeared to be perfectly satisfied that the pupils were making rapid progress under the tuition of Mr. Campbell. Quite a new feature in the examination was introduced by our teacher, viz: that of giving one or two prizes to those of the pupils, who, by their Good Conduct, stood highest in the estimation of their schoolmates. The voting was done by ballot. The successful competitors being Master John Torrance, Master Thos Elliot, Miss Helen McIntosh and Miss Frances Cox, each of whom were presented with the prizes by their teacher in a very complimentary manner, which not only reflected great credit on the recipients, but also on their instructor for the marked attention paid them. Another pleasing feature in connection with this school is that the Teacher spares no pains in teaching the children singing—and his efforts have been successful.

BELMORE.

The following prize list of the Belmore Union Branch Agricultural Society has been sent to us for publication:—

FIRST CLASS.—Draft horses, Richard Harper; second prize George Inglis; two year colt George Inglis, 2nd prize Robert Bradon; year colt Wm. Anderson, 2nd prize John Lucas; saddle horse James Doubledee, 2nd David Wier. SECOND CLASS.—One year old bull, Richard Anderson, 2nd Wm. Anderson; milch cows, James Halliday, 2nd Wm. Anderson, 3rd James Halliday; working oxen, F. H. Schooles, 2nd James Guinn, 3rd Wm. Jeffrey; Four year old steers, F. H. Schooles, 2nd Francis Gilmore; three year old steer, F. H. Schoales. 2nd Wm. Anderson; two year old steer, David Weir, 2nd Wm. Anderson; two year old heifer, James Halliday, 2nd Wm. Anderson; one year old heifer, Anson Cryster, 2nd Wm. Robinson (Carrick); bull calf, Wm. Jeffrey; heifer, Wm. Jeffrey. THIRD CLASS.—Ram, George Inglis, 2nd do do; ram lamb, George Inglis, 2nd James Story; Ewes, George Inglis, 2nd do; ewe lambs, George Inglis, 2nd do; shherling ewe, George Inglis, 2nd do; fat sheep, George Inglis. FOURTH CLASS.—Sow, Thos. Irwin, 2nd S. P. Dennis; spring pigs, Wm. Anderson. FIFTH CLASS.—Fall wheat, Donald McIntosh, 2nd Adam Darling, 3rd Robert Bradon; spring wheat, Robert Bradon, 2nd Wm. Allen; Barley, George Inglis, 2nd S. P. Dennis; oats, Wm. Anderson; pers, Joseph Anderson; Swedish turnip seed, George Inglis; timothy seed, George Inglis. SIXTH CLASS.—Packed butter, George Inglis, 2nd F. W. Irwin, 3rd S. P. Dennis; fresh butter, Donald McIntosh, 2nd George Inglis, 3rd S. P. Dennis; SEVENTH CLASS.—Pink Potatoes, George Inglis, 2nd Wm. Anderson; Cup potatoes George Inglis, 2nd Wm. Robinson (Culross); any other kind, Wm. Robinson (Carrick), 2nd Wm. Anderson; Sweed Turnip, George Inglis; any other kind, George Inglis; beets, Wm. Robinson (Carrick); carrots, Adam Darling, 2nd Richard Anderson; onions, Ignatius Hiefer, 2nd George L. Inglis; cabbage, Ignatius Hiefer; apples, F. W. Irwin, 2nd, do. EIGHTH CLASS.—Drugget, F. W. Irwin; Yarn, Wm. Allen, 2nd Wm. Anderson; stockings, George Inglis, 2nd, F. W. Irwin; Socks, George Inglis, 2nd F. W. Irwin; mitts, George Inglis, 2nd, do; quilt, F. Coleman; shirt, F. Coleman; sugar, Ignatius Heifer, 2nd S. P. Dennis; horse shoes, Hugh Towrie; plough, Thos. Cowan. NINTH CLASS.—Crochet work, Wm. Robinson (Culross). 2nd F. H. Schoales; embroidery, Wm. Robinson (Culross), 2nd F. Coleman; Berlin wool work, F. Coleman; flowers, Wm. Anderson, 2nd Hugh Towrie.

F. H. SCHOALES, President.
S. DENNIS, Secretary.

Financial Condition of Europe.

(*From the London Times, Dec. 6.*)

The most cursory reader of newspapers must have been struck with one fact within the last two days, for it has stared him in the face on every page of every journal. From all parts of the world, from the East, the the West, the North, and the South, from Pope, from King, and from Kaiser, from Princes and from public companies, which rival Princes in their pride and profusion, there appears to have arisen simultaneously a demand for money. Our columns have been full of accounts of loans just contracted, and of loans now announced for the first time as being about to be contracted. That all these demands should have been made public within a day or two of one another is an odd coincidence, but it serves to draw attention to a state of things which may well excite grave apprehension. How can the price of money be other than high, or the price of consols other than low, when there are so many competitors in the field whose joint requirements would exhaust the annual savings of the nation many times over.

The financial condition of Europe at this moment is not inspiriting. With one or two exceptions every nation is a borrower, and we may read without surprise in the report of the Stock Exchange that there has been a general decline in foreign securities. Russia is not as yet in the market, but so far as an opinion may be hazarded upon a subject so uncertain as Russian finance, the time is not far distant when she must reappear. M. Fould's energy has at last, we believe, brought him within sight of an equilibrium, but, though relieved from the necessity of borrowing money for France, he must soon have to do so for the Imperial *protege* in Mexico. The effect of all these loans on ourselves is apparent, and though it is not absolutely so great as the effect on the borrowing nations themselves, we are justified in looking on it as of primary importance to us. These borrowers, scattering the produce they have not amassed, keep up the rate of interest, embarrass the operations of trade, retard the progress of manufactures, and depress the condition of the laborer. The capital which could have been devoted to fresh production and the improvement of the state of the industrial classes is wasted in military show abroad, or is worse than wasted in the maintenance of injustice and oppression. We suffer, but the effects on the nations themselves are far more deplorable. The revenue of States have everywhere enormously increased during the last ten years, and yet so much faster has the expenditure grown that the debt of nations has been augmented to an extent almost without a parallel even in times of war. The peasant in the field and the artisan in the workshop are mulcted of portions of their labor through the mischievous perversity of their rulers. Had such things happened in the midst of a desolating war, when enemies threatened the existence of nations, they might have been suffered with patience, and even with cheerfulness; but that they should be possible in the midst of peace, and through the caprice or ignorance of rulers, is a fact which it needs no prophetic spirit to foretel, must some day arouse a dangerous resentment.

Strange Story.

The New Albany Ind. Commercial says:—A few nights ago a widow lady who lives at the Shoals, Martin county, was applied to at night by a soldier, who desired to stop over night.—She was loth to admit him, but finally consented, with the understanding that she should lock him in his own room and keep the key until morning. During the night she was roused by three ruffians, who demanded $300 which she had received from a son who had lately been discharged from the army, and in the event of her refusal threatened to burn her dwelling.

She promised to get her money and bring it down to the villains, at the door, where they agreed to wait for her, and went immediately to the stranger's room, roused him and told him the situation of things, and asked his advice. He told her to take the money down as agreed on, light a lamp that he might see through the door, and as she gave the money, to step out of the way, so that he could get a fair shot at the recipients. She obeyed instructions, and immediately after getting hold of the money the fellow fell, while the other two, before they could recover from their astonishment, were served in like manner, and the whole three were thus bagged.

On examination one of the parties proved to be a brother-in-law of the widow, and the others near neighbors.

☞ From an announcement which the Daily News is authorized to make, it appears that the approaching opening of Parliament is likely to be surrounded with greater interest than has attached to the ceremony since the death of the Prince Consort. Should the state of the Queen's health justify, the effort, her Majesty intends to open Parliament in person. It is stated that the old ceremonial will be subjected to a few modifications.

The True Cause of the "Social Evil."

Quebec journals are now discussing that particularly nauseous truth, the increase of what is daintily termed the "Social Evil," and of the establishments in which it is housed. The City Council have also had the same subjects under review on a proposition to place them under legal surveillance and to confine them to certain localities. It is officially stated that the houses of prostitution have increased from thirty to six hundred, until every seventeenth house in old Quebec is a brothel; and as a matter of course, the denizens of such houses, and the number of those who support them, have increased in an equal ratio. What is true of Quebec, is true also of other cities in this Province, in the United States, in Great Britain, and in other countries.

It is not pleasant to observe such a state of things, with the knowledge that the evil is daily becoming more wide spread; and altho' public writers dare not ignore it, they find the greatest difficulty in treating of a subject which common consent, and a too scrupulous delicacy, desire to banish from discussion.—We believe all legislation for suppression, such as has been attempted here and in other countries, is worthless, and so far evil that it enables a certain class of officials to levy black mail upon vice; and that all legislation which recognises, regulates, and thereby sanctions prostitution, is unjustifiable in principle, and calculated to increase rather than restrain it.

The evil appears to us to be deeper, and at the same time nearer home than society is disposed to believe. It is the product of the extravagance of the present style of living among what are called the better classes, of the expensive habits of women, and of the craving after luxury which infects all ranks of the community. Time was, when a young man came of age, and had either started in business for himself, or had a moderate salary, he took to himself a wife, probably not more richly dowered, and both were content to begin with the world with modest housekeeping, and to work their way through life together. Love in those departed days was the bond of union, and furnished enough to gild a life of modest wants and moderate expectations.

Such is the extravagance of women in these later times, such is their expectations as regards dress, establishment, and society, that a young man of moderate means dare not marry, if he could find any girl in his own rank of life, whose worldly education had been so neglected by her parents and friends, as to consent to become the wife of a poor man, and share the privations and cares of a home sanctified by that standing household love affection. So he has to wait, and waiting probably spends more money than would have maintained a family in the manner his position and means entitled them to, and much of it in a profligacy which men young and old have ceased to be ashamed of, and only conceal from their female relatives and friends.

Much has been said and written against early and improvident marriages are not necessarily improvident; nor does it follow that a marriage is improvident because those who contract it have little more than that great wealth of love which belongs to youth, which, if repressed or cast away on unworthy objects, takes flight forever. On the verge of middle life he marries, if he can escape the entanglements around him, and a precious catch he is to any pure woman, as she would think, if she knew to what kind of associates she had become the successor; but what, has been will be; the anti matrimonial habits are suspended, not extinct, and will probably be taken up again; for unless we refuse to believe the concurrent testimony of those whose business as guardians of the public peace and morals, gives them the knowledge wherewith to speak with authority on this subject, married men of good position are the chief supporters of prostitution in its higher grades, for like respectable society, it has its aristocracy and its sets.

The social evil is recruited chiefly from among household servants and sewing girls; not a few of the former are victims of seduction, where they should have found protection; many of the latter are driven to vice from insufficient remuneration; while not a few of both classes, learning the love of dress and luxury from the ranks above them, voluntarily seek the means to gratify it, which they know to be open, and see so little condemned.

Well! what of the remedy? We have no remedy that is possible; if we could roll the world back a hundred years, we should find the remedy in the different state of society, when narrow means were not feared nor despised, when young men and woman married in the bloom of life for love, and not for an establishment; when a wife's sweetest duty was to be a helpmate for her husband, doing her household work herself, and when marriage with the husband was the end of an imperfect, and the beginning of a perfect life—there would seem to be the remedy. But the world only rolls one way, and the civilization of which we boast, made up as it is of folly, fraud and pretence, corrupt to the core with selfishness, irreligion and vice, must have its day, die of its own rottenness, and with the evil it has engendered.—[Montreal Telegraph.

A New Phase of the Ministerial Embroglio.

Montreal, Dec. 21.

The Hon. Mr. Brown arrived here last night, and this morning waited on Sir John Michel, the Administrator of the Government, for the purpose of formally resigning his seat in the Cabinet. The interview lasted some some time, and Mr Brown again saw Sir John at a late hour of the day.

At 3 o'clock, Sir N. Belleau and Solicitor General Langevin arrived from Ottawa, and immediately waited on the Administrator.—What passed I have not heard; but the result was that Sir John declined to accept Mr Brown's resignation at present.

It is also stated that Messrs. Macdonald and Cartier have been summoned to Montreal by His Excellency, and are expected here to-morrow.

The newspapers here have been speculating as to the cause of Mr. Brown's resignation, and some of them of them have commented in a very intemperate manner on his conduct.—They had better have waited until they heard his grounds of resignation. It may be that they will find themselves on Mr. Brown's side in the controversy. Mr. Brown left to-night at eight o'clock, for Toronto. The Gazette regrets that he has left the Government.—[Globe's Teleg.

The Fenian Quarrel.

The Tribune tells us who and what these "Senators" are, and we learn that McGibbon was a shoemaker, and now makes a living out of the Brotherhood; Scanlon a dealer in candy, Fitzgerald an aspirant for political honors, Sullivan a tinsmith, Fleming a plumber, Meehan an editor, Carey a dealer in second-hand clothing, Roberts a dry goods dealer, O'Rourke a pressman in the Tribune office, Bannon a dealer in terra cotta ware, and other adventurers. The Times says that Roberts has 150 000 francs belonging to the Brotherhood at his own credit in Paris; that John Mitchel, who was dispatched as a special ambassador to France, has possession of $20,000; that O'Rourke, who served seven as treasurer of the order, has $15,000 in his own hands and refuses to give up either the money or the books; that O'Mahoney has retired $700,000 in Fenian bonds, with his own name affixed and applied the money to "flying the Fenian flag upon the ocean," and that the split between him and the others commenced about eight months ago, when it was discovered at Chicago that a plot was on foot to depose him. The friends of O'Rourke assert that, when he resigned office, he delivered $34,000 in gold to Killian, who made a considerable profit on it by selling it in Wall street, and that the funds were honestly and faithfully appropriated to the purposes of the order until O'Mahoney and Killian got control of them.

☞ The Milwaukee Sentinel says the receipts of wheat at that place, last week were 385,419 bushels against 62,681 bushels in the same week last year. The stock in store is about 800,000 bushels, and the quality of the wheat now received continues fully up to the standard of previous seasons.

Outrage by Highwaymen.

On Wednesday night last, between the hours of 11 and 12 o'clock, Mr. William Hefferman, his wife, Judge Tracy—his son in-law, and Mrs. Tracy, daughter of Mr. Hefferman, left St. Cecilia Academy in a baroucche for the family residence, Harding Pike. Before proceeding far, six highwaymen stepped out in the road, one of the party took hold of the bridle, while another demanded a halt. Without much further ceremony, the ruffians caught hold of Mr. Hefferman, who was on the front seat, and dragged him out. His wife jumped afterwards. Just about this time, Judge T. levelled his pistol and fired at one of the villains, which caused the party for the time being to scatter. Unfortunately the discharge of the pistol frightened the horse and he ran off and proceeded a considerable distance up the road before Judge T. could stop him. After checking him, he awoke Mr. McLaughlin and several other citizens in the neighborhood, and went back in search of the highwaymen. Upon reaching the spot from where the horse started from he found Mrs. Hefferman sitting on the side of the road, with her husband reclining on her lap, apparently in a dying condition. He then learned that one of the ruffians had fired upon Mr. Hefferman, the ball taking effect under the eye, and continuing until it passed back of the right ear. With all possible haste, Mr. Hefferman was removed to his residence, a physician was sent for, who upon their arrival pronounced his case hopeless.

CURIOUS CASE DECIDED IN CHANCERY.—In the case of Walker vs. Alley, brought before the Chancellor, on motion for an injunction, the plaintiff proved that he had carried on business in London, C.W., for ten years, that he had used in front of his store as a sign the figure of a Golden Lion, and had so advertised his business. The defendant was foreman in the store of plaintiff till August last, when he left the establishment and commenced business for himself on the opposite side of the street, and erected another Golden Lion, as his sign, similar to the plaintiff's.—Evidence was given to show that defendant had by this means obtained several of the plaintiff's customers. That he had issued an advertisement, in which he very disingenuously thanked the public for past favors and hoped for a continuance of their patronage, as if he had really been in business with the plaintiff. A few days since the Chancellor granted an injunction to compel the defend