After routine

Hon. Mr. Sicotte (the abs[illegible] Finance Minister,) moved the House [illegible] Committee of Supply.

Hon. J. A. McDonald then rose and [illegible] in amendment that the Speaker do not leave the chair, but that it be resolved [illegible] the Administration, as at present constitute[illegible] is not worthy of the confidence of this Ho[illegible] He said that after due deliberation he a[illegible] those usually acting with him had resolved [illegible] take this course, as fair towards the Minister[illegible] and the country at large. It would have been better had the late Government been turned out upon a direct want of confidence vote, because the defeat of the Militia Bill upon its second reading had injured the reputation of the country in England. The present Ministry took office under circumstances of considerable difficulty, but the Opposition had dealt most fairly with them. When Ministers took office it was usual to expect a declaration of policy. Representation based upon Population had long been an exciting question in Upper Canada. When Messrs. McDougal, Foley, Wilson and Howland, took office after persistently agitating the question, it was reasonable to expect they were prepared with a solution of it. But they had taken office and left over for four years this question which they had said was fraught with danger to the peace of the country. But further—Mr. McDougall in his speech during the debate on the Address, had said that though moving for Representation by Population a fortnight before he took office he did not believe it all the time. He (Mr. McDonald) also recollected the unanswerable speech of Mr. Sicotte against the unconstitutionality and immorality of the Double Majority. Yet, notwithstanding the pledge to adhere to that principle, the School Bill was passed against the Upper Canada majority. He recollected when the Premier was taunted with forcing the measures upon Upper Canada, saying that it was not forced yet. What did that mean? Did it not mean that the Premier was not a party to such forcing? If so, his resolution had soon left him, and he had abandoned the Double Majority. But there was one excuse which the Ministers offered for taking office—Economy! Everything must give way for the purpose of stopping extravagance and mismanagement of the late Government. Now, it appeared according the speech of the member for South Oxford, that economy was a sham. He (Mr. Macdonald) when in England, found the impression existing, that the delegates designed to kill off the project of the Intercolonial Railway. The *Globe* expressed the same opinion, and Mr. Macdonald read from the correspondence on the Intercolonial Railway, claiming that it proved his allegation. After a digression, defending the conduct of the late Government in deciding that the claim of the Grand Trunk on account of Postal Subsidy should be submitted to arbitration, Mr. Macdonald went to say that the administration had repudiated not only the acts of their predecessors, but also their own acts, thus producing the impression in England that no faith could be placed in the Canadian Government. The Militia bill ought to be called a bill to deprive the country of the means of defence. It was utterly inadequate an illusory in its provisions. Mr. Macdonald argued at considerable length against the Bill. He read from the correspondence of Mr. S. Macdonald and the Governor, endeavoring to show that ministers had to be whipped by his Excellency into action about the organization of the militia. After urging several objections against the Bill, he concluded his speech of nearly two hours' length amid Opposition cheers.

Hon. J. Sandfield Macdonald agreed upon the propriety of testing the feeling of the House. The late Government had fallen deservedly. The Militia Bill was prepared by a commission who were totally ignorant of the circumstances of the country. The late Ministry had lost the confidence of a House elected under their own auspices; and in proof of the little esteem in which they were held in the country, he cited the election of the present Ministers unanimously, and the result of the Upper House elections. He was surprised to hear Mr. J. A. Macdonald attack members supporting the Government for the course they had taken on the question of Representation by Population, especially as he had been more strongly against the principle than he (the Premier) himself. He (the Attorney General) had only found fault with his friends for pressing the matter prematurely. But the member for Kingston ridiculed it as revolutionary, and as leading to universal suffrage; yet he was the leader of a party three-fourths of whom favoured that principle. The same was the case with the Separate School question. A large section of the Conservatives was against these schools, yet their leader was willing to give the Roman Catholics anything they wanted. The member for Kingston had voted for Representation by Population, yet he gave that principle up in 1854, for the purpose of getting office by means of Lower Canada votes. When he took office then he did so by accepting the whole policy of Mr. Hincks, which he had previously denounced. The abolition of the Clergy Reserves was among the things he had adopted, though he had previously denounced it. Then there was the Elective Council Bill, and also the Bill to register votes which he opposed, and afterwards passed. The same was the case with the Seigniorial Tenure. He had denounced the scheme as a robbery on Upper Canada, yet he afterwards passed the Bill. (Hear.)

Six o'clock having arrived, the House adjourned.

After the recess—

Mr. SICOTTE presented several addresses.

Atty. Gen. Macdonald brought down a pamphlet containing the evidence brought before the financial commission. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. RYKERT brought up a matter of privilege—an article in the DAILY NEWS of to-day, headed "Judas," charging certain members with having attended the Opposition caucus on Wednesday, professing sympathy with them, and having afterwards told the Attorney General the worst of its secrets, receiving therefor $40. He (Mr. Rykert) took the attack to himself, because he had been repeatedly told that he was the person meant. He talked very indignantly, denying the paragraph, and threatening to move to bring the slanderer to the bar of the House. He appealed to the Attorney General to confirm his denial.

Atty. Gen. Macdonald said he had had dinner with Mr. Rykert on Wednesday, but nothing was said about the caucus. He would scorn to ask the secrets of a caucus. The conduct of the Opposition press of this city was disgraceful.

Mr. M. Cameron asked did not the member tell the Premier about the caucus in the morning.

Atty. Gen. Macdonald said he had met Mr. Rykert in the morning, and might have joked him, as he had heard Mr. Rykert went with Mr. Cartier to the caucus, but nothing more.

Mr. Rykert gave notice to move in the matter on Monday.

Attorney General Macdonald then resumed his speech. The feeling in England, whatever it might be was due to the hope excited by the promises of the State Government, who had misjudged the feeling of this country and promised too much. He then reviewed the different charges made against the Government by Mr. John A. Macdonald. The Postal Subsidy, the Intercolonial negotiations, &c. He said the Double Majority was not exactly applicable to the School Bill. He reminded Mr. John A. Macdonald that he had worked the Double Majority against Sir Allan McNab. Yet he ruled four years without it. He defended the Militia, the Representation, and the Insolvency Bills generally, and concluded with the assertion that he would stand or fall by his policy, and would not hold office without the confidence of the House and the country. Having spoken over two hours, he sat down amid much cheering.

Mr. Rose spoke two hours, attacking the

Railroad

MENT.

		Day Express.
	DEP.	8.30 A. M.
	"	9.08 "
	"	9.36 "
	"	9.36 "
	"	9.55 "
	"	10.11 "
	ARR.	10.50 "
	DEP.	12.05 P. M.
WEST.		
STRATFORD	ARR.	2.28 P. M.
"	DEP.	2.50 "
MITCHELL	"	3.33 "
CARRON BROOK	"	3.52 "
SEAFORTH	"	4.15 "
HARPURHEY	"	4.21 "
CLINTON	"	4.45 "
GODERICH	DEP.	5.30 "

Connects at Stratford with Grand Trunk and at Paris with Great Western. Daily Stages from Goderich to all parts of the surrounding country. Passengers reach Ports on the coast by VanEvery and Rumball's steamers.

Huron Signal.

GODERICH, C. W., MAY 5, 1863.

THE "SIGNAL" AND THE SEPARATE SCHOOL BILL.

A correspondent, whose good opinion we value, intimates that the *Signal* has remained silent on the subject of the Separate School Bill, and the wrongs inflicted by it on Upper Canada. Our good friend is mistaken: the *Signal did* state in distinct terms its objections to Mr. Scott's Bill, when it was first introduced, and *before* the *Globe* commenced its agitation on it. And now that the thing has passed its final stage, excepting the signature of His Excellency, we have not seen anything to cause us regret on account of our expression of "first impressions" with regard to the influence this Bill will probably exercise upon our Common School System. In our humble opinion it would be far better to exclude from our system of National Education every trace of Sectarianism, and by all means to render it *National* in the strictest sense of the term. The primary object of a Common School should be, and generally is, to secure to the children attending it as complete a knowledge as possible of those rudiments of education which will fit them for entering a higher seminary, or, in case of the harder working classes, prepare them for entering life with the *machinery* for self-education, which, if properly used, cannot fail to make the fortunate possessor an intelligent and useful member of society. And, we conceive that education the *best* which is calculated to fit the child of the poor as well as the rich man for the station it must fill in after life. This requisite is met, and fully met, in the Common School System of Upper Canada. If the farmer cannot spare his sons and daughters from the field longer than will enable them to master the branches taught in the Common School, he has the proud satisfaction of knowing that they are immeasurably better equipped in this respect than he was at the same age. At least, such is the case in nine cases out of ten. On the other hand, the children of richer or more ambitious parents have ample opportunities, in the Grammar Schools, &c., for fitting themselves to enter college. Admitting the force of these trite facts, it does seem that, while religious truth need not necessarily be excluded from our Schools, it would be very easy to free them from anything in the shape of Sectarianism, so that Church of England, Presbyterian, Methodist and Roman Catholic might meet on the same platform and labor cordially together in building up the beautiful fabric of national intelligence. But every thinking man must at the outset see the difficulties in the way of such a harmonious working together of the members of every denomination. Protestants [illegible] do so, we firmly believe, without a [illegible] qualm of conscience, and without [illegible] their cherished pr[illegible] The [illegible] generally believe th[illegible] remember,) ed[illegible] adhered t[illegible] that relig[illegible] *at home* i[illegible] Church [illegible] least [illegible] for securing [illegible] opment which is am[illegible] the *best* groundwork of a [illegible] self-sacrificing religion. The R[illegible] Catholic Church, on the contrary [illegible]ches, we believe, that her followers should receive their secular education *in immediate connection with* religious instruction, and herein lies the great difficulty of the question. Admitting that we, in Upper Canada, have the power, are we justified in forcing upon a minority a system at which its conscience takes alarm? It is indeed difficult to conceive of anything in our Common School System calculated to offend the conscientious scruples of any man, but let us keep in mind that conscience is always based upon a certain faith, whatever that faith may happen to be. This principle, indeed, works in two ways, for while the Roman Catholic minority dislike unsectarian education, it is undoubtedly the case that the Protestant majority deem it unfair and unjust that a desire to obtain Lower Canadian support should lead the present or any other Government to inflict upon Upper Canada a system which a vast majority of its people can never *conscientiously* acknowledge. We have thus endeavored to [illegible] Common-sense view of this im[illegible] subject, not overlooking some of [illegible]ments in favor of Separate Schools, [illegible] the agitation now introduced for [illegible]me, our own opinion regarding [illegible] precisely the same. We should [illegible] lift up our voice for unsectarian education. But, unfortunately, the *principle* has been conceded long since, and after a careful perusal of Mr. Scott's Bill, we cannot for the life of us see that any fresh concession has been made to the "Hierarchy," or that it does more than render consistent the Separate School Act of 1855. Of course, we are fallible as mortals generally, and if our correspondent thinks he can discover in the Bill of this Session the affirmation of any new principle, we shall be happy to give him an opportunity of stating it through our columns.

From what we have seen of the recent agitation on this subject it seems that Mr. Scott's Bill has merely roused in the popular mind feelings of aversion which have existed since 1855. A settlement of the principle for the time being does not, and *cannot*, stifle public sentiment; and we are not in the least surprised that the Reformers of Upper Canada generally should deprecate any *appearance* of fresh concessions on the part of Government. The concessions introduced by the Bill of '55 were dangerous to the integrity of the Common School System itself, for it is absolutely certain that any other Church has as much right, from the precedent then established and now sustained, to ask for Separate Schools as the Church of Rome. The end will be, we fear, an entire breaking up of the whole scheme, and we candidly believe that if we cannot have one general unsectarian system, it would be far better, and more satisfactory, for every man to pay directly for the education of his own children. Will that be the end of the "irrepressible conflict?"

JOHN A's MOTION.

We have nothing further from Quebec with reference to the debate on the Motion of Want of Confidence, than Saturday night's report. On Saturday the Ministry lost one vote by the removal of Mr. Kierzkowski in favor of Mr. Penchaud, the Vercheres Election Committee having declared the latter duly elected. The indications are that the vote will be a remarkably close one, and at present it is impossible to predict what the result will be, although we learn the Ministry is confident that it will be sustained. In case of an adverse vote, the House will, in all probability, be dissolved.

BLACKWOOD FOR APRIL.—Contents: Sensation Diplomacy in Japan; a good article on a subject which it would appear is at present attracting the anxious attention of the authorities of Britain. Mrs. Clifford's Marriage, part 2; Sir James Graham; The Inexhaustible Capital; Caxtoniana—a continuation of the pleasant speculative dreamings of Sir F. B. Lytton; Speddings' Life of Bacon; Spirit Writing in China; Marriage Bills; Leonard Scott & Co, N. Y., publisher. Sold at this office, and by all Canadian booksellers.

THE PRINTER for April is welcome to our sanctum. This little monthly should find its way into the hands of every printer, young and old, who desires ample information on the progress of the art.

RUSSEL THE "TIMES" CORRESPONDENT.—This prince of Reporters, and gentleman of Bull Run fame wrote the graphic account of the Prince's Wedding published in the *Times* and copied into most of our Canadian papers. He received the snug little sum of 100 guineas for the report. He is at work on a book to be called History of the Wedding at Windsor, and it is expected he will realize a *thousand guineas* from its sale. Russell has received a *regular* salary of $10,000 a year since the Crimean War. So much for the profession of letters in England.

The War News.

The *Leader* says:—The American war despatches begin to get readable once more. Interest now is particularly concentrated upon the movements on the Rappahannock, and the Confederate advance into Western Virginia and Pennsylvania. In the despatches with reference to Hooker's army we find that amount of [illegible] bombast—that ridiculous boast which one [illegible] be expected from such a [illegible]. Well, let them have their noisy [illegible]: it is about all they generally get.—[illegible] Federal army, it seems, has crossed the [illegible]ppahannock both above and below Fredericksburg. Above the town they have advanced to Chancellorsville; and below they [illegible] not attempted to push on to any distance [illegible] the river. We should say from such an [illegible] as this that the Federal arms are in [illegible]rable danger. Even Napoleon did [illegible]ture upon an advance by double col[illegible] except in very rare instances; and then [illegible] rapidity of his movements and his [illegible] the genius that carried him safely through [illegible] Hooker has not only divided his army, [illegible] threatened by a Confederate force [illegible] which, however, may be capured [illegible] the reporter—if General Stonem[illegible]: "beatirs himself!" There is some reflect[illegible] to a probable division of Lee's forces for the purpose of strengthening the advancing army in Virginia; but we do not think the supposition worthy of a moment's serious consideration. Lee knows his business too well for that.

The Confederate force in Virginia is said to number 12,000, probably largely made up of cavalry, under Jenkins. They have destroyed nine bridges on the Baltimore and Ohio railroad, and are making for—the Federals know not where—but suppose that either Wheeling or Pittsburg is the object of their attack. Were they to take either place they could do an immense amount of mischief, as in both Wheeling and Pittsburg there are factories now daily turning out cannon for the Federal army.

The news, so far, looks well for the South.

LATEST ABOUT THE VIRGINIA.—A telegraph from Southampton received at Liverpool just previous to the sailing of the last steamer says:—The steamship Virginia, late the Japan, has arrived in the English channel from Greenock. The screw-steamer Alar, of 85 tons, which left Newhaven on Saturday last, put into Plymouth this morning. She cleared for South Wales, but communicated with the Virginia in the English Channel, discharging her cargo into her, which is said to consist of provisions, guns and ammunition. The Alar landed here from the Virginia 15 seamen, two of whom had been severely scalded by an accident to the latter's engine.

Special Dispatch

GREAT BATTLE NEAR THE RAPPAHANNOCK.

A LONG AND INTERESTING REPORT OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF HOOKER'S ARMY.

NEW YORK, May 5.

The *Times* cor. states that after three days skirmishing on both sides the rebels on Saturday, p. m. and evening, attacked our right flank. Jackson, with his whole corps of 40,000 men threw himself impetuously on Gen. Howard's 11th corps, but the movement was only partially successful and reinforcements being promptly sent by Gen. Hooker, the rebels were handsomely checked. Howard's corps consisted of Schenk, Steinway, and Diven's Divisions.

The *Times* correspondent states that this corps disgracefully abandoned their position behind their breast-work and pushed, panic-stricken, toward headquarters. Our right was then completely turned and the rebels in a fair way of doubling us up.

Hooker was, however, immediately in the saddle and turned to cheer the leader of his own old corps, and shouted, "General throw your men into the breach! receive the foe on your bayonets, don't fire a shot, they can't see you."

They rushed gloriously at double quick to the rescue, pressing forward a horrid array of glittering steel. The enemy were checked and retired to the breastworks abandoned by Howard's corps.

Batteries were immediately manned on the crest of the hill, pouring in a terrible fire far into the night.

Gen. Plansenby also checked a battery of flying artillery and drew up his little Brigade of Cavalry, with drawn sabers to protect the guns. He had them double shotted with canister and swept the enemy's position murderously.

In the charge of the rebels they took from the cowardly Dutchman, as the correspondent of the *Times* styles them, 12 guns.

The Germans fled past Hooker's headquarters in panic-stricken hordes. Many members of staff with pistol and sabre endeavored to stay their flight.

What made this retreat more disastrous was the fact that Siegel had by a branch road pierced the enemy's centre, penetrating and cutting them in twain, and secured the key to victory, when the turning of Howard's position obliged him to retreat behind, bringing off 400 prisoners.

Artillery combat continued till midnight fiercely. Hooker and his staff were all the time under the severest fire.

Another cor. of the *Times*, dated Sunday evening, says it was reported from Howard's front that the rebels have been engaged all Friday night in cutting a road past his right, but not much attention paid to the fact.

On Saturday afternoon it was reported by pickets on the right of Slocum's Front, that waggons had been seen all day moving in a Westerly direction.

Gen. Siegel with a heavy force was sent to reconnoitre, when the advance fell in with the rear of Jackson's army.

Siegel pushed on to checkmate Jackson and soon captured the entire 23th regime't, 400 men, including officers. This movement of Siegel's cut Jackson's force in two. Gen. Williams commenced a flank movement on the enemy's right with good prospects of success.

It was supposed that Gen. Howard's corps, formerly Siegel's, would successfully resist Jackson's armament, but the 1st Div. assailed Carrol, who instantly gave way. 1000 of the cowards throwing away their guns, streamed toward head quarters.

Gen. Devon's Division, by the demoralization of the others, was unable to stand against the rebels, and Devon was a second time wounded while endeavoring to rally his men. Gen. Howard could not stem the tide, and the brigades of Cols. Bushbrick and McLean having remained fighting as long as possible, retired in good order. Of course this disaster caused the recal of Siegel, who had been vigorously at work.

Gen. Williams' Division returned to find a portion of his works occupied by the enemy.

Siegel could not communicate with the whole of his army by the route he came, and Hooker ordered a night attack to restore communication. Ward's brigade aided by West's battery made an attack at 11 o'clock, which was entirely successful, and in a charge made by the brigade a portion of artillery lost by Howard was retaken. The enemy were driven back nearly a mile. That night (Saturday), our men slept on their arms.

Sunday morning at 5 the rebels could be plainly seen on the plank road a mile and a half from Hooker's headquarters at Chancellors-house, which had been penetrated the evening previous by a shell. Our line of battle formed, and the enemy advancing, his infantry, in overwhelming numbers, seemed determined to crush us. Siegel and Slocum's brave men held them in check, inflicting dreadful slaughter among them. French's Division was sent in on our right flank and soon crushed that portion of the enemy's line.

At 8 o'clock in the morning French sent to Hooker, stating that he had charged the rebels and was driving them before him. 5 rebel Divisions were thrown upon Siegel, but he held the traitors in check, taking during the day over 2000 prisoners. The fight was a desperate hand to hand conflict, and the carnage perfectly frightful. Officers say the dead and dying rebels covered the ground in heaps. The rebels throwing themselves upon the muzzles of our guns.

The engagement lasted from 5.30 to 8.45 a.m., when having held their position for an hour we fell back to Chancellorhouse, where the contest was kept up.

The enemy had gained some ground but at a sacrifice of 5 of its 7 Divisions.

Sunday afternoon the rebels made several attempts to force our lines. Several of their batteries of artillery and regiments being destroyed in attempts to carry the apex of our position near Chancellorhouse, where a large quantity of our artillery is massed. Our present position is impregnable.

Gen. Lee has ordered that our lines must be broken at all hazards.

Our troops are perfectly cool.

Gen Hill is reported killed. Gen. Berry was killed while leading his brave men.

A YOUNG LADY DROWNED.—We learn from the Detroit *Free Press* that a Miss Bessie Hunter, whilst standing upon a log which projected into the river, slipped and was precipitated into the water at Grosse Isle on Monday last. Unfortunately assistance was rendered too late to save life.

THE AMERICAN WAR.

WASHINGTON, April 30.

From the best attainable information from persons arriving from the Rappahannock, it would appear that some important movement took place yesterday. There was no fighting of any importance. The forces crossed at Kelly's Ford.

Pontoon bridges were laid two and three miles below Fredericksburg, and we held possession of those pontoons last night.

The enemy formed lines of battle, and planted batteries on the heights in their rear, and also fired a few shots to get the range.

In crossing we lost one or two officers, and from 30 to 40 men killed and wounded. Our men crossed first in boats, and drove the enemy out of their rifle pits, killed and wounded many, and took 100 prisoners, including several officers, one of whom was Lieut. Col. Hammond, of the 6th Louisiana regiment. These prisoners arrived here yesterday, and were sent to the Old Capitol.

Another informant says that the left wing, 35,000 strong, crossed four miles below Fredericksburg, a little below where Franklin crossed previous to the first battle of Fredericksburg. They fought twelve hours, and drove the enemy eight miles out of their rifle pits and behind their entrenchments.

The third brigade of the first division suffered more than any other in the fight.

Our forces have captured 500 or 600 prisoners, who will soon be brought to this city. Many of these prisoners have voluntarily come over to us, having thrown away their arms in small squads and begged food. They pick up what the soldiers have thrown away on the march. Other rebels say that they have plenty to eat.

The right wing crossed at Kelly's Ford, and General Stoneman's cavalry is reported to be somewhere in the interior of Fredericksburg. One corps remains at Falmouth as a reserve.

MURFREESBORO, May 1.

A deserter from the 2nd Kentucky, rebel, who left the regiment this morning, reports that Breckenridge advanced to Beech Grove and Harvey's Gap, twelve miles from here, on the Manchester Pike. He states that the entire rebel force is now in position from Beech Grove, through Waltrace Guy's Gap and Shelbyville. The supposed intention of Johnson is to hold the Gaps and force Gen. Rosecrans to concentrate his lines. Little hope is entertained that Johnson will attack while despatches detailing this activity on the part of the rebels must be necessarily silent regarding ourselves. It must not be supposed that Rosecrans is idle or unprepared.

CAIRO, May 1.

The steamer to-day brings dates from Milliken's Bend, of Sunday evening. Nearly the whole of the army at that point was in motion. It marches across. Tents and baggage all left behind, the soldiers taking six day's rations.

Two tugs, having in tow four hay barges, ran past the batteries at Vicksburg last Saturday night. The rebels did not fire at them.

It is stated on what is considered reliable authority, that General Osterham now occupies Grand Gulf.

Arrival of the Europa.

HALIFAX, April 30.

The steamship Europa, from Liverpool on the 18th, via Queenstown on the 19th inst., arrived here this morning, with three days' later news.

Large amounts of forged United States treasury notes in denominations of 5's, 10's and 20's had been issued at Sheffield.

The *Daily News* says there is an impression that Confederate Government cotton warrants are in circulation in England, but it is announced that such of these documents as were created previous to the Confederate loan have been reduced through the medium of their operation.

POLAND.

The Paris *Pays* says the despatches of England, France, and Austria were presented to the Court of Russia on the 17th. A despatch says the question threatened to assume greater complications.

Great excitement prevailed in Norway and Sweden regarding Poland.

The Courts of Italy and Poland had conveyed to St. Petersbersburg their adhesion to the Notes of the three Powers.

The revolutionary committee has divided Poland into 23 districts, each to furnish 400 men and pay taxes.

The movements of the insurgents had become more active since the publication of the amnesty. Numerous engagements are reported, and an attack on Kalisch was daily expected.

LONDON.—Funds advancing, and a reduction of Bank rates expected.

LATEST.

LONDON, April 19.—Sweden is actively engaged reorganizing her navy and completing her maritime defences.

The Great Eastern safely floated off the gridiron last night.

The following paragraph appears in the *Moniteur* of yesterday, and has attracted considerable attention:—"The growing hostility of the United States towards England is exciting uneasiness in London." The last despatches from the Washington Government have a character of menacing irritation.

Quarrel between John A. and J. H. Cameron.

Political gossip is busy to-day concerning a quarrel which took place between the Hon. J. H. Cameron and John A. On the day the latter was elected leader of the Conservative party, the member for Peel suddenly left for home, and much speculation was the consequence. It is now said that an understanding existed before the overthrow of the late Administration, that, in the event of the coalition being defeated, Cameron should be promoted to the leadership of the Conservatives. John A. was too corrupt, and his catalogue of political crimes too monstrous, ever to lead the party to victory again. The mantle was to be worn by the member for Peel, whose acknowledged abilities and character for honesty were well calculated to insure party triumph. Therefore, before the defeat on the Militia last Bill, it was agreed that Cameron should be the coming man. Early in this session, however, John A., contrary to the advice of many of his friends, engineered to get the nomination, and the result showed he was successful. The friends of Cameron, among whom I am permitted to mention John Beverly Robinson, Anderson, Crawford and Powell—felt highly indignant at John A. for thrusting himself forward as leader, contrary to an agreement, if not actually expressed in black and white, at least perfectly understood. Cameron himself felt keenly the slight at being tossed aside, to make room for a man guilty of almost every sin in the political calendar. The rivals hardly speak to each other, and Cameron, who is only kept from open insubordination by John A.'s threatening to make new combinations, suddenly left Quebec on Tuesday for the West. Depend upon it, there is trouble in the opposition wigwam, and the truth would reveal a pretty ugly state of affairs.—*Cor. Hamilton Times, April 25.*

A "Horror" in St. Louis.

The St. Louis *Democrat* gives the details of a fiendish and horrible butchery that occurred in the city on Monday morning last by a Mrs. M'Coy. A little girl of between five and six years, living near, was coaxed by Mrs. M'Coy into her room. The woman then closed the door, darked the windows, took a hatchet and commenced hewing the child to pieces! No screams were heard, the first blow apparently having stunned the helpless victim! The fiend at length pushed the quivering body under a lounge, hid the bloody hatchet, gathered up her absent husband's clothes and her own and left the house. A Mrs. Mulloy, living near, knew that Mrs. M'Coy was a desperate and mischievous person, and on finding her thus departing concluded she was about to destroy her husband's clothes. Mrs. M., on pushing open the door, discovered the scene of blood and butchery. The child lay in a pool of gore, one foot protruding from beneath the lounge. The limb still moved with the dying agonies of the sufferer. She was drawn out, yet breathing, but died almost immediately. The lower portion of the jaw had been hacked or knocked off, the nose and face had been cut and contused, teeth, fingers and pieces of flesh were scattered around the apartment. The fingers of the left hand had been cut off. Shoes and lumps of flesh had been hewn from the child's legs. The hatchet was found concealed under the cupboard. The maniacal creature who enacted his horror actually escaped, and up to midnight had not been arrested. Deceased was named Catharine Moran, the daughter of Patrick Moran, laborer, whose wife had been dead some years. The neighbors aver that this Mrs. M'Coy is not addicted to intemperance.

Correspondence.

An Improvement Wanted.

DEAR SIGNAL,—Will you allow me a corner to moot an improvement which I think it would be well to bring before our "city fathers," now that they seem inclined to lay out a few dollars to keep certain streets in repair. I mean the street leading to the Drill Shed, Nelson, I believe it is called.—You are doubtless aware that in sloppy weather, when the nights are nearly always dark, the wagon track on that street is impracticable for foot passengers, and the side of the road is so abominably rough that it is impossible to reach the shed without two or three ugly tumbles. Now is the time, sir, to spend a few dollars to good advantage, and the fathers aforesaid would confer a lasting obligation on the military companies if they would be good enough to have a portion graded and a few planks laid down. The cost would be trifling, and the luxury a lasting one. Something of the kind is necessary, for it will never do to drag strangers and our lovely lady visitors, whom we are proud to see present as spectators, through or over that horrible bit of road. The companies have with judicious zeal expended much of their own money in assisting in the construction of the New Drill Room, and this request will not surely seem out of place. It should be remembered also that the room is to be used for Agricultural and Horticultural Exhibitions, and that is another strong argument in favor of the suggested improvement.—Thanks beforehand be to that noble-hearted, intelligent "right-good-fellow" of a councillor who will attend to the wishes of so many ratepayers of the town. Give us your assistance, dear *Signal;* you seldom fail in carrying your point in these matters.

respectfully yours,

ARTILLERYMAN.

OUR COMMON SCHOOLS.

For the Signal.

If there is one thing more than another connected with our Secular interests universally neglected—less thought about—avoided and quarreled over—and one thing more than another which is of greater importance to our present welfare and that of future generations—individually, as a community and as a nation, it is the subject of Common Schools. For the sake of saving a few shillings—in many sections, *cheap* teachers are hired and just time enough put in to save the Government money—the children go six months to school and run wild the next half of the year. The institution so well organized at first and designed to develope and train the youthful minds of our country—is the last subject of consideration by a majority of the people. The immense importance of the subject is seen but by few and their influence is small opposed to monied self interest. What would our Colleges be but for the Common School system and the Grammar Schools as our intermediate link. And it is with much difficulty that the Grammar Schools in some localities and kept up and it is only done by the most strenuous exertions of the trustees and a few liberal-minded men. This should not be and would not be if the masses would take that interest in the Common Schools they ought. The "almighty dollar" seems to be the consideration, and very many farmers think if they can give their sons a few hundred dollars it is all they require—that farming is a business which requires no education at all, or just enough to keep accounts. A more mistaken idea scarcely exists. The best Farmers, stock and fruit growers in the land or in any country are those who have been liberally educated, or who, not having early opportunities to educate themselves, have, by their own energies, placed themselves above the great mass of the farming community. A nobler occupation does not exist than that of the farmer. It is to the Agricultural portion of the community that the success of all other trades and professions is due. Without successful agriculture no country can be prosperous, and I venture to say that no community can be successful agriculturally for a term of time without knowing something of agricultural chemistry, and the more the better; and this cannot be acquired without a good Common School education, and a year or two at a Grammar School would do no harm.

It fits a man for studying cause and effect far better, for observing more closely for making the most minute calculations in reference to his business, and places him above the necessity of depending upon the say of others in his farm management.

(TO BE CONTINUED.)

A Crown Land Grievance.

Mr. Dickson, on the 1st inst., moved for the papers connected with the sale and issuing of the Patent of Lot No. 37, Con. C., Howick, to J. Lukin Robinson, Esq., of Toronto. He said that the case referred to was one of extreme hardship and cruelty to a poor industrious settler, and well illustrated the injuries inflicted by non-resident speculators, on those by whom the country has been cleared and rendered valuable. When the papers were brought down, it would be clearly seen that in 1861 the late Commissioner of Crown Lands unjustly deprived this poor man of his only lot of land, on which he had resided since 1854, for which he had paid the taxes to 1861, and performed the Statute labor, and upon which he had made large improvements, and ordered a Patent to be issued to Mr. John Lukin Robinson, of Toronto, a non-resident speculator, by whom the land was never seen, and who had in no way complied with the conditions on which it was sold.—The person to whom the land in reality belonged emigrated with his brother to this country from Ireland in 1853, and in June, 1854, they went up into the Township of Howick, at that time a wilderness, containing not more than three or four settlers, and where they had to submit to privation in carving out for themselves what they hoped would prove a home. When the land sales took place in 1854, one of the brothers was in attendance, and was informed that the land had been disposed of to another party. However, relying on justice being done them, the brothers still kept on the land and continued to improve it, but to their horror, in March last, the brother who owned the property was served by Mr. Christopher Robinson, of Toronto, with a writ of ejectment, and was by this means deprived of at least $500 worth of improvements made upon the land by eight years of hard labor. He had now to support a sick brother who had become a mere wreck by reason of having had to undergo the hardships which fell to the lot of the pioneer settler, and ruin stared both of them in the face unless something could be done to relieve them. It was his intention, when the papers came down, to move that they be referred to a Committee. (Hear, hear.)

Hon. Mr. Robinson said the honorable member for Huron and Bruce was greatly mistaken in describing his (Mr. Robinson's) brother as a speculator. He paid $6 an acre for this lot, and sold it for $6. And that was his speculation.

Mr. Dickson wished to observe that when this poor man applied to get the lot in 1854, he was informed by the Crown Land Agent that it had been disposed of. On reference to the books, it would be seen that in Nov., 1854, it was covertly sold to one Geo. Augustus Hind, and was afterwards transferred from one to another until it got into the hands of the party for whom it was at the first intended, and there was one thing certain, that whether Mr. Lukin Robinson was a speculator or not he had not paid the taxes or fulfilled any of the other conditions in this case, but was trying to take away the rights of a hard working settler without having the manliness or decency to offer him one cent by way of compensation. (Hear hear.)

The motion was then agreed to.

Town & Counties.

FREAK OF NATURE.—Mr. Wm Swafield of Goderich township, farmer, owns a ewe which early this Spring had a lamb. About three weeks after the event he was not a little surprised to see his flock increased by two more lambs from *the same ewe*. Such cases are of very rare occurrence. In fact, we do not remember reading of more than one instance of the kind.

THE OLD ROCHESTER NURSERY.—Mr. Wm. Campbell, agent for S. Moulson's Nurseries, has just received and is opening out at Wells' Hotel, a very large number of fruit trees. They appeared to have arrived in splendid condition, and are fine and thrifty in appearance. Parties expecting these trees would do well to have them planted as soon as possible.

THE FORMER AND LATTER RAIN.—We have been favored last night and today with a splendid fall of rain—not a sudden downpour, but one of those constant, steady showers which is sure to reach the roots of every plant. Nothing could have been better for the farming community than this timely blessing. The Spring Wheat is all sown, and sown under most favorable circumstances—while the Fall Wheat, grass, &c., will be equally benefitted by the moisture that is so indispensable to the germination of newly sown grain. So far, the prospects for 1863 have seldom been surpassed in Canada.

THE MIDDLE AGES.—Mr. Fothergill lectured last night, according to announcement, before a very large audience, for Goderich. The speaker has evidently received a liberal *Oxford* education, and his command of the English language is exceedingly comprehensive. His great argument throughout the lecture was that The Catholic Church was the great instrument made use of in preserving, through the barbarous feudal ages, Christianity, Literature, Arts, Sciences, and all those elements out of which the more advanced Civilization of our day has been evolved. While we are inclined to differ from the learned gentleman on several important points, it must be admitted that he has carefully studied the subject upon which he treats.

WHERE IS THE WOMAN, McINTOSH?

This question is still unanswered, notwithstanding the diligent and patient efforts of the best available detective talent in the province. Not a single ray of light has been shed upon the mysterious disappearance of this woman, and if some clue is not obtained soon, we may almost conclude that the case is for the present a hopeless one. Donohue has been further remanded until Wednesday (to-morrow) at 4 o'clock, when, we hope, something definite will be elicited. The neighbors living on the 6th concession and vicinity have turned out and assisted in every possible way, the search for the body, supposing she is really dead, of which, of course, there is no tangible evidence.

Meeting of Colborne Tp Council.

At a meeting of the Municipal Council of Colborne, held the 26th day of April, at the Tavern of John Ross, Smith's Hill.

Present—Thos. Hussey, Reeve, Messrs. H. Spence, Alex. Malloy, Wm. Young and James Rhynas.

Mr. H. Spence being elected Councillor for Ward No. 1, in the place of Geo. Lesturgeon, resigned, and having signed his declaration and qualification of office, took his seat.

It was moved by Jas. Rhynas, seconded by Alex. Malloy, that at the January meeting the minute respecting the Non-Resident Statute labor being applied on the locality of their lands, be rescinded. Carried.

Moved by Jas. Rhynas, seconded by H. Spence, that this Council consider the Assessor, Donald McMurchy, an incompetent person to assess the Township for the current year, on account of the numerous errors and mistakes in the Assessment Roll now before the Council, and therefore consider it necessary to employ another Assessor.—Carried.

Moved by Wm Young, seconded by Alex. Malloy, that John Buchanan be appointed Assessor in the place of D. McMurchy. Carried.

JAMES TEWSLEY,
Township Clerk.

HULLETT COUNCIL.

HULLETT, April 20th, 1863.

The Council met this day pursuant to notice from the Clerk. All the members present.

The minutes of finance Meeting having been read, passed and signed by the Reeve and Clerk. The petition of Elisha Watson, J. McMillan and others were received and considered.

It was then moved by J. Morgan, seconded by C. Dale, That the petition of E. Watson and others be not entertained. Carried.

Moved by H. Snell, seconded by J Morgan, That the petition of J. McMillan and others be granted. Carried.

Moved by C. Dale in amendment, seconded by ——— that the petition of J. McMillan and others be not accepted. Carried.

Moved by J. Morgan, seconded by H. Snell, That the Council do now form itself into a Court of Revision for hearing complaints against assessments, and revising the same. Carried.

These parties having been heard relative to the amount of these assessments &c., it was moved by J. Morgan, seconded by H. Snell, that the Court of Revision now close, as we find no cause of complaint. Carried.

The Clerk then certified that the Bill was finally passed by the Court of Revision.

It was then moved by J. Morgan, seconded by J. Warwick, That a committee of three be appointed by the Council to make a selection of the standing By-Laws, revising and amending the same, that they may be printed for circulation in this Township. Carried.

Moved by J. Warwick, seconded by H. Snell, that the members of each committee consist of the D. Reeves, Clark and Mawn, and meet and adjourn from time to time.—Carried.

Moved by H. Snell, seconded by J. Morgan, That B. Robinson's account for plans of bridges be paid. Carried.

Moved by J. Morgan, seconded by H. Snell, That a By-Law be passed for the appointment of Township officers for the present year. Carried.

The By-Law was prepared, read and passed.

Moved by J. Morgan, seconded by J. Warwick, that the Clerk correspond with the Tuckersmith Council, relative to each Township performing a proportionate share of Statute labor on Huron Road. Carried.

Moved by J. Morgan, seconded by H. Snell, That all orders for work done in the Township be paid by Treasurer. Carried.

Moved by H. Snell, seconded by J. Morgan, That Wm. Snell and Wm. Sloan be