

FALL OF PART OF THE HORSE SHOE FALL.

On Tuesday evening last, our citizens were startled on hearing a loud and terrific noise, resembling as near as we can describe it, the heavy booming of artillery, in quick succession, which shook the earth around us very sensibly.

Part of the Horse Shoe Fall on the Canada side had fallen, carrying away about ten rods of the rock in length, by four in width. The canal boat, which had been lodged for the last few months on the brink of the rock which has fallen, and which has excited the admiration of all who beheld it. It is now in the whirlpool, two miles down the river, dancing attendance to the freaks of that great malstrom.

The crash occurred about seven o'clock in the evening; and it is indeed providential that it fell at such an hour, and at this season of the year. Had it been in the summer when so many thousands of strangers are here, there undoubtedly would have been persons crushed to death: for it is precisely the spot where so many have stood to contemplate the grandeur of nature and behold the waters of the mighty cataract above them rushing terrifically over their heads, that is now filled with the huge masses of rock which have fallen from above.

The loss of this portion of the rock has not in the least diminished in appearance the view of the Falls; but has in our opinion added to the scene, and looks grander and more sublime, if possible, than ever.—*Niagara Falls Iris, Dec. 14.*

CHRISTMAS AT THE LUNATIC ASYLUM.

On Christmas Day, as a visitor, I had the pleasure of going over that valuable and praise-worthy institution, the Provincial Lunatic Asylum, when I saw 200 of the patients, out of 240, sit down to a sumptuous dinner, at one P. M. which consisted of the following bill of fare:—

60 Geese, 60 Turkeys,
12 Pieces of Roast Beef,
12 Rounds of Boiled Beef,
20 Plum Biddings, weighing 8 lbs each,
With vegetables, celery, and ale.

The rooms were tastefully laid out, and hung with evergreens, in arches and festoons.

The healthy, happy, and joyous appearance of the patients, elicited general praise; and from the judicious and efficient management of the Medical Gentlemen and his Lady, Dr. and Mrs. Ramsey, the whole went off with eclat, and seemingly to the entire satisfaction of the patients, who though amongst them were some who had committed the awful crime of murder, seemed perfectly rational, and under the control of their keepers and nurses. At six in the evening, tea and spice cake were served out, and all went off without noise or interruption: indeed a great uproar has often been made and heard at a political dinner, amongst the sapientia of this world.

THE OHIO AT NORFOLK.—PARTICULARS OF THE DISASTER.

Norfolk, Dec. 27th.—The Ohio put in here yesterday (Thursday) afternoon.—She had 400 passengers—250 from California. She started from Havana first on the 18th. Her first evolution blew out the head of a cylinder and uncoupled the engines; and she started again on the 19th, with one engine; made good headway until the 22nd, when she was struck by a heavy gale; the boat was heavily strained and damaged, and laid to until Monday evening. She then got under way again, and sprung a leak at two o'clock on Tuesday morning. The crew were unable to keep the water down, and the fires were extinguished; ten feet of water was in the hold and all the pumps were put in requisition, and bailing was resorted to, which was continued until Wednesday at noon without cessation until the water was low enough to build fires. Steam was then put on and constant bailing was requisite to keep the fires from being extinguished until they reached the wharf at Norfolk. Her furniture is all broken, with three of the iron braces, and the damage is not less than \$30,000. She will have to be taken into the Dry Dock.

200 of her passengers arrived in Baltimore this morning.

The only injury to those on board, was one man had his arm broken.

Hon. Reverdy Johnson, who was a passenger, says he jumped laboriously. The captain told him privately toward the end of the passage, that the ship would sink in two hours. The final subsiding of the gale, and the unemitting labors of the passengers and crew, secured the safety of the noble vessel. The water at one time washed completely over her deck.

The Ohio brings the California mails and one million dollars in gold dust. None of the latter was lost.

The passengers were obliged to work at the pumps for three days in order to keep her up.

The passengers by the Ohio have published a card exonerating Captain Schenck from all blame.

Captain S. was opposed to landing at Norfolk, but the passengers insisting, he yielding to their wishes.

JENNY LIND'S CHARITIES TO THE WIDOW.

The following article is from the Portland (Me.) Advertiser of the 17th inst. It is another of the numerous proofs Miss Lind has given of her benevolence and interestedness. Who can see such evil-

deness of her noble character, without exclaiming the enthusiasm which prompts us to pay this humble tribute to her merits.—*N. Y. Com. Adv.*

CALAIS, Nov. 27, 1850.

Dear Miss—I have received from Joseph A. Lee your generous donation of five hundred dollars, for the benefit of myself and the fatherless children of my late husband, who lost his life in efforts to save the officers and crew of the Swedish brig *Johanna*. Permit me to add, that your prompt and liberal response to the appeal of the widow and fatherless will not soon be forgotten. Be assured that the prayer of both is, that the noble powers with which the great Benefactor of all has so richly endowed you, may not only continue to charm the world by their music, but that yours may be the higher praise and the more precious reward of causing the heart of many a widow to sing for joy.

Very respectfully,
Your ob't and humble servant,
CHARLOTTE CLARK.

MISS JENNY LIND.

"An Act to empower Municipal Corporations to subscribe for Stock in the Great Western Railroad Company, on the terms and conditions set forth in the accompanying resolution."

"Whereas the Great Western Railroad Company and the Municipal Corporation of certain localities through which the Company are empowered to make their Railroad, have prayed that such Corporations and all others who may be so disposed, may be enabled to subscribe for Stock of the said Company, and it is expedient to promote an undertaking so important to the interests of the Province, by granting the prayer of the said Petition: Be it therefore enacted, &c.,

That it shall be lawful for the Common Council of the City of Hamilton, and for any other Municipal Corporation in this Province, to subscribe for any number of shares in the Capital Stock of the said Great Western Railroad Company, or to lend any sum of money to the said Company, or to guarantee and become security for the payment of any sum of money borrowed by the said Company after the passing of this Act, from any other Corporation or party, or to endorse or guarantee the payment of any Debenture to be issued by the said Company for money borrowed by them after the passing hereof: Provided always, that nothing herein contained shall be construed to increase the total amount of the Capital Stock which the said Company is now authorized by law to raise, or the total amount of money which it is now authorized to borrow.

"II. And be it enacted, That the Municipal Corporation of any County, City, Town, Township or Village who shall subscribe for Stock of the said Company, or lend or guarantee the payment of any sum of money under this Act, shall have full power and authority to cause to be assessed and levied, from time to time, upon the whole rateable property in such County, City, Town, Township or Village sufficient sums to enable them to discharge the debts, obligations and engagements to which they shall have contracted as aforesaid; and also, for the like purpose, to issue Debentures, payable at such times, and for such sum respectively, not less than twenty-five pounds, and bearing or not bearing interest, as such Corporation may think meet."

"III. And be it enacted, That any Debenture which any Corporation may, under this Act issue, endorse or guarantee, shall be valid and binding upon such Corporation, if signed, endorsed, or counter-signed by such officer or person, and in such manner and form as shall be directed by any By-law of the Corporation, and it shall not be necessary that it be under the Seal of the Corporation, or that any further form be observed with regard to it than such as shall be directed in such By-law as aforesaid."

"IV. And be it enacted, That it shall not be lawful for any Municipal Corporation to subscribe for stock as aforesaid, or incur any debt or liability under this Act, unless and until a By-law to that effect, shall have been duly made and adopted with the consent first had and obtained of a majority of the qualified electors of the Municipality, present at a Meeting called for that purpose by the Mayor, Warden or Town Reeve, at the request of any ten such electors, by public advertisement containing a copy of such proposed By-law, INSERTED AT LEAST FOUR TIMES IN EACH NEWSPAPER PRINTED WITHIN THE LIMITS OF THE MUNICIPALITY, or if no newspaper be printed therein, then in some one or more newspapers printed in the immediate vicinity thereof, and circulated therein."

"V. And be it enacted, That the Warden, Mayor or Town Reeve, being the head of any Municipal Corporation subscribing for and holding shares in the stock of the said Company to the amount of Twenty Five Thousand Pounds or upwards, shall be ex officio, one of the Directors now authorized by Law, and shall have the same rights, powers and duties as any of the other Directors of the said Company."

Old Parson M., of Worcester county, sometimes used to be sent on a missionary tour. Once on a time, having just returned from one of these excursions, he found his congregation quite drowsy, and wishing to wake them up, he broke off in the midst of his sermon, and began to tell them of what wonderful things he had seen in York State. Among other wonders, he said he had seen monsters great mosquitoes, so large that many of them would weigh a pound. The people were by this time wide awake.

Yes, continued M., and moreover, they are often known to climb trees and bark!

The next day one of the deacons called upon him, and told him that many of the brethren were much scandalized by the stories he told the day before.

What stories? said Parson M.—Why, sir, you said that the mosquitoes in York State were so large that many of them would weigh a pound!

Well, rejoined the minister, I do really think that a great many of them would weigh a pound.

But, continued the deacon, you also said they would climb trees and bark!

Well, sir, said Parson M., as to climbing upon trees, I have seen them do that same; haven't you, deacon?

Oh, yes.

Well, how could they climb upon the trees, and not climb on the bark?

The deacon left.



THE WATCHMAN.

ST. THOMAS:

SATURDAY, JANUARY 11th, 1851.

ARE TOWNSHIPS TO BE TAXED AGAINST THEIR WILL?

In our previous number we showed the policy adopted by the speculative members of our Provincial Parliament to introduce into our Statute Book the accused and monstrous principle of taxing against their will, the Farmers of every Municipality in Upper Canada, to sustain the tottering Railroad company commonly called in Canada, for the past eighteen years, the Great Western. This principle of forcing Taxation on the poor farmer to help the self-styled rich gentleman, is a last resource of the Great Company—is a reversing of the usual old-fashioned course of begging. The poor man, when he goes a begging generally holds out his hat and politely solicits a little spare voluntary charity from some wealthy passer by. But the monopolising principle compels the poor farmer to give the alms, and enables the speculating rich gentleman when he goes begging to pocket the charity collected in accordance with law—not in unison with the feelings or ability of the giver, but in contempt, mockery, and defiance of either—this desperate principle of private taxation may be called the forlorn hope of the Great Western.

It is said that, "The queerest object in nature is a Spanish hegger, for these beggars beg on horseback, and it is not an odd thing to see a man riding up to a poor foot passenger, asking alms." A gentleman in Valparaiso, being accosted by one of these mounted beggars, replied, "Why, sir, you come to beg of me who have to go on foot, while you ride on horseback?" "Very true, sir," said the hegger, "and I have more need to beg, as I have to support my horse as well as myself."

Now we think the queerest object in Canada will be a Great Western Railroad beggar, who has to support his horse as well as himself—by compulsory taxation.

We stated on a former occasion that very little interest was manifested in the House when the Bill permitting the Tax was under decision, and that thirty of the members of Parliament were absent when the short but iniquitous Bill passed through the Legislative Assembly. And that those Legislators who supported the principle of Taxation and monopoly, were the representatives of the Cities or Towns in Canada, not the representatives of the Counties. We now take the liberty to remind our readers of some of the sayings of members when the Bill was before the House of Assembly.

The Bill was introduced by Sir Allan McNab, M. P. P., for the City of Hamilton, and the speakers in its favor, as we have been informed, were Messrs. Holmes, M. R., city of Montreal, Wilson, town of London, Boulton, city of Toronto, McNab, city of Hamilton, all Members of towns or cities.

The speakers against the principle, were Messrs. Baldwin, North Riding of York, Conche, Montmorency, Richards, Leeds, Thomson, Haldimand, all Members representing the masses in Counties or Ridings. And the Honorable Robert Baldwin remarked, "That if the doors were now opened through this Act for them, (the Municipalities) to get into debt they would in a short time be in the same position that some American towns were in, a few years since, when they were sold off, stock and barrel, to the sheriff." Messrs. Richards and Thomson "opposed the grant of such powers, as it would enable a few rash or speculating men, in a small neighborhood to plunge their localities into inextricable embarrassments."

And Mr. Couchon "opposed the principle by which Municipal bodies should have the right of contracting heavy, and perhaps ruinous debts, which they would have no means of discharging."

And the Honorable F. Hincks had proposed an amendment to limit this power of taxing to certain Municipalities, and we certainly do regret that he should not have pressed and carried an amendment, limiting the dangerous power to towns and cities, and the sooner the Bill is amended to that limitation the better, if it is not entirely repealed.

We advise the farmers along the line of the Niagara and Detroit Rivers Railroad, as surveyed by Colonel Johnson, to be alive, get up meetings and petitions to the Legislature. If there had been a few more petitions sent to the Legislature last Session, that company would have been rechartered, all under contract, and part of the road completed, true it is the parties along the line of road had too much confidence in the House of Assembly, and never dreamed that such a 'professedly liberal House would object to the rechartering of a Bill they had been so often asked to pass.

THE LONDON REVIVAL MEETING.

M. Anderson & Adam Hope of London town, and a few others who assume to themselves the distinguished cognomen of the North, or the still more comprehensive appellation of the County of Middlesex, did in their wisdom or folly send a requisition [not even dated] to Wm. Niles, Esq., the Warden of the County for the past year, 1850, to call a meeting to be held in the Town of London, on the nineteenth of January, instant, [Sunday], to recommend the County Council to take stock in the Great Western Railroad Company to the amount of one hundred thousand dollars, and to pass a By-law for that purpose.

The following was Mr. Niles' business-like reply, and like the requisition of the Londoners it has no date, but that's nothing.

Gentlemen, in compliance with the above requisition, I appoint the said meeting to be held on Saturday, the eighteenth January, 1851, at the Court House, in the Town of London.

WILLIAM NILES, Warden, C. M.

Pray Mr. Warden are the people to meet before daylight? or after the sun sets? or at the breakfast hour? or at the sound of the tea bell? The hour, the hour, who is to decide the hour? All we know is that the meeting is to be held some time after twelve of the clock on Friday evening, or it may commence sometime before the wee short hour of 12 o'clock on Saturday night & thus slip unconsciously in upon the nineteenth to meet the view the requisitionists labored under, when they called for a revival meeting on Sunday. And who would suppose that Wm. Niles, a country gentleman of supposed liberal sentiments, would be a party to crush the voice of the farmers in the County, by ordering a meeting of the farmers in the county to meet in London town, as the most central and convenient place in Middlesex. Mr. Niles may be told by sycophants who are destroying his public and political career that this act of his is a liberal act. We tell him and the farmers in the county will tell him, that this act of his is the darkest act of tyranny he ever was guilty of as a public man to his fellow men. Unless you have some overwhelming selfish interest in this fiscally taxation we advise you Mr. Niles to retract your false steps, and if you must have a meeting, call one for the county with some appearance at least of justice, on the North Street. Come out like a Britisher, to a fair field, in the open country, in the heart of the county. Do not allow the London people, like cowards, to have a chance to strike the farmers in the town of Fifty thousand pounds not twenty-five thousand in a London den, swarming with clerks, Lawyers, Merchants, and idlers, in place of your friends the substantial Farmers.

Mr. Niles, your meeting is illegal, and contrary to the law of the land, see the Act elsewhere in our columns, and we advise the farmers not to attend it.—Your meeting is got up in a cowardly den, just to fleece the farmers. Your meeting is got up to be held, no body knows at what hour! and we tell the farmers to mind you not.

The meeting is got up on a Saturday, and you know the Scotch Presbyterians, from Aldboro', would not attend your meeting on a Saturday, to be travelling home on the Sabbath day. A more foolish, desperate, and unprincipled act was never attempted to fleece the farmers than the intended meeting in London, and we emphatically advise every farmer in the Talbot Settlement, south of the Thames, not to go near the cowards meeting in London.

YARMOUTH ELECTION.

1st Ward, R. Johnson.
2d do John Oil.
3d do D. Parish.
4th do Macready.
5th do H. Douglass.

Communications.

To the Editor of the Watchman.

Sir—In the Free Press I observe a letter addressed to Nobody, headed "Great Western Rail Road," and signed a Londoner, in which the writer remarks that the Town of London contains rateable property not far short of £400,000; every shilling of which, he says, will be held liable in the same manner as any other rateable property is in the County, for any Debentures the County of Middlesex may issue in the Great Western Railroad.—Now, sir, I have been informed that the property in the County is valued at £600,000, and that that property pays to the County Council for County purposes, £1,500. And I have also learned from a source I can rely on, that the property in the town of London is rated or valued at a little under £300,000. Now if the property in the town of London, so pompously paraded before the readers of the Free Press, (as not far short of £400,000, and that too, for the purpose of deception,) is liable in the same manner as other rateable property in the County, how does it happen that the £300,000 of assessed property in the town of London in place of paying £750 to the County Council for County purposes, only paid one seventh part of the sum to the Council for the year just ended, 1850. And in 1849 the £400,000 of London Town property contributed less to the county Taxes than the township of Aldboro' which, where the property is valued at £13,000.

Why all that London hitherto has paid is a mere trifle to help to feed the prisoners in the Gaol. It has not paid a farthing to the general county debt or expenses, and it would be much wiser if the Council would reject the trifle London pays, rather than allow it to pay a trifle and have two voices in the Council, and act the part of a de-pot to fleece the farmers for its benefit, by forcing taxation on them under such plausible pretensions as are circulated about great profit and no cost.

Now, it does seem to me that the prudent way to put an end to all excitement in this county about the fear of Taxation. Since it is said that no Taxation is required, that the county is only to become an endorser for £25,000, to run no risk, pay no tax, but receive a profit!!! that it might be just as well for the corporation of the Town of London to take another £25,000, and thus become the endorser in place of the county.

You know, according to Londoners, they will never require to pay the £50,000—they will never be taxed for it, and surely a corporation with property worth £400,000 would be considered a first rate endorser for only 50,000 pounds; and then you know, at a push the depot, land and carriages at the London Station, in the town of London, would be worth that 50,000 pounds any day, and if they did see any danger they could very easily sell out. And in the meantime, all the profit would belong to London, and in this way there could be no additional tax in the county for the Rail Road; for I do assure you Londoners is mistaken. We farmers not only dread the Tax, but know we must pay for it too; but we will hold up both hands, as they say, to let the Town of London take that other 25,000 pounds.

I am, sir,
your obedient servant,
A TAY-PAYER.

Westminster, Jan. 6th, 1851.

To the Editor of the St. Thomas Watchman.

SELECTORS OF JURORS.

Sir—As Madam Rumour and Councillor Parish have been at work circulating certain stories regarding the remuneration of the selectors of Jurors, under the new Jury Act. Will you allow the following correspondence on the matter to appear in your columns, and allow me to remark that the selectors for some of the Townships in the County would have less labour to perform, than the selectors in Yarmouth had to perform for a single Ward. The number of jury-men selected and returned for the Wards in Yarmouth, in accordance with the new Act, was six hundred and sixty-four, namely—Grand Jurors to serve in the superior courts, seventy-five, ditto, in the inferior courts, one hundred and forty-nine; Petit Jurors to serve in the superior courts, one hundred and fifty, ditto, in the inferior courts, two hundred and ninety, a sufficient number from Yarmouth to do all the business for Middlesex.

The 16th section enacts that the Clerk of the Peace shall transcribe "from the different reports of the different selectors of jurors for the different Townships, Villages and Wards, or other like local divisions of the County."

The 17th section enacts "That such Juror's rolls shall be each divided into Townships, Wards and Villages, or other like subdivisions, answering to the local divisions of such counties," and in Schedule B, the Clerk of the Peace is to certify to each roll that "I have carefully compared the above Jurors Roll with the reports made by the selectors of jurors for the different Townships, Villages and Wards, in the County of—." And I am of opinion and always was of opinion, that the Wards

in Yarmouth are as much Wards in the County of Middlesex as the Wards in the Town of London are, and if it had been the intention of the Legislature to exclude the Wards of Townships the Act would have excluded them and not the County Council, just as the new Assessment Act does in the sixty-seventh section, where you may read that the word "Ward" shall not be held to extend to any Township Ward." And he reasons is obvious, namely, the system of assessing is different in towns from townships, and of course in their respective Wards—in towns the assessment will be entered on the rack rent or annual 6 per cent value and in townships on the full value; for instance, a house in a township valued and assessed at two hundred pounds, and taxed accordingly, in a town, say in London, would be assessed at six per cent on that amount, and would be assessed at twelve pounds and taxed accordingly.

When I heard of the action of the County Council I addressed the following letter to the Clerk of the Peace, and received from that gentleman the subjoined reply, and the section he quotes shows still more plainly than ever that the County Council have no right to interfere either with the duties required from the selectors, the certificate given by the Clerk of the Peace, or the payment of two pounds ten shillings made to each by the Treasurer, under the new Jury Act. The selectors in Yarmouth acted in accordance with the Act.

I am your ob't servant,
J. McKAY.

St. Thomas, 10th January, 1851.

St. Thomas, 20th Dec., 1850.

Sir—I am informed that the County Council decline to pay the selectors of jurors for the Wards of Yarmouth, under your certificate, they say the Wards in the Jury Act are exclusively the Wards in Towns, and not all the Wards or local divisions in the County. The only difference I can see in the Wards is in their formation—in Towns the Municipal Act names and describes them, in Townships the same Act authorises Wards to be named and described by the Township Council, but one is as much a local division in the County as the other.

I am of opinion you acted in accordance with the Act in giving the certificate you gave for the selectors of jurors in the Five Wards in Yarmouth, if you think you acted under a mistaken view of the Law, I will endeavor to procure the certificate and return it to you. And I would only ask you again to read the 16th, 17th, & 18th sections of the Jury Act, also the certificate that you require to append to the various rolls of jurors. And if you are not clear on the point the most satisfactory course would be, to submit the question of Wards to the Provincial Secretary, for the submission to the Law Officers of the Crown. I shall be glad to hear what you say about this.

And am, Sir,
Your obedient servant,
J. B. ASKIN, Esq.,
Clerk of the Peace, London.

LONDON, 27th December, 1850.

Sir—Your note would have been replied to ere this, but for pressing business requiring immediate attention, the Jury Bill intervened, and I could not refer to the Act to which you allude.

I am not conscious that in granting you a certificate in the manner I did, that I erred. I am quite satisfied, I was then correct, so I think the treasurer also thought. On reading the clause LXXXI, the latter part, you will observe, "For all which money so to be paid as aforesaid, every such Treasurer and chamberlain shall be allowed in his accounts with such County, union of Counties or City, as if the same had been paid under the special authority and direction of the Municipal Corporation of such County, union of Counties or City respectively." And consequently the authorities having no jurisdiction in the premises, only to pass and allow the accounts in question neither do I perceive that the Council of the County have any jurisdiction, except to provide the funds for the payment, as contemplated by the Municipal Council Act: true it is that they decline to pay.

I am at a loss to find any authority they possess in the matter, and therefore cannot interfere between the Treasurer and the performance of any duty imposed upon him by Statute, else he would be subject to a mandamus and to be indicted if the party desired to prosecute that mode of redress.

I am, Sir,
Your very ob't servant,
Signed, J. B. ASKIN.

To John McKay, Esq., &c. &c.,
St. Thomas.

MECHANICS' INSTITUTE.

The Rev. Mr. Boyd, of London, will lecture on Tuesday evening next, on *Self Reliance*.

MARRIED.

In this Town, on Monday the 6th instant, at the Episcopal church, by the Rev. Mark Burnham, Mr. John McKinnon, Merchant, Vienna, to Miss Julia Alexander, daughter of John Alexander Esq., formerly of this place.

Advertisements.

JAMES GRANT.
GENERAL Dealer in Dry Goods Groceries Crockery, Hardware, &c. &c.
Directly opposite Mr. Love's Cabinet Ware Rooms. St. Thomas. 1851. 5

E. E. WARREN.

NOTARY Public Commissioner in the Queen's Bench, conveyancer, and Accountant, Office opposite the Post Office, Main Street.
E. E. W. is prepared to undertake the winding up of Estates, collection of debts House Rents, &c.
Port Stanley Jan. 1851. 5