Huron Signal.

GODERICH, C. W., FEB. 7, 1865.

VOLUME XVIII. OF THE HURON SIGNAL.

THE last number of the *Signal* commenced the 18th volume. The journal has passed through all the vicissitudes incident to a new country. Its proprietors have been encouraged or depressed, according to the fluctuations of trade or the force of surrounding circumstances. It has had to win its way forward through many difficulties to the position it now occupies, but through all it has spoken out in hopeful strains—it has striven to act upon the motto under the heading, consistently and faithfully, and the result is that to-day it has a stronger hold upon the affections of the public than it had in 1848, when in the first flush of youth. The present editor and proprietor cannot express too much thankfulness for the uniform kindness he has met with from the readers of the *Huron Signal*. The task before him, when he assumed the responsibilities of the office in 1862, were such as might well daunt a wiser and bolder man. The paper had gained a Provincial reputation and many were the prophecies that it would sink into oblivion after the death of the lamented Mr. McQueen. What position could be more trying to a young man possessed of ordinary sensibility? We can assure our readers that we felt it, and that at the outset we trembled for the result. The philosophical essays and pungent criticisms of Mr. McQueen could not be attempted, and hence the only course left open was to endeavor to accomplish by arduous labor that which was the recreation of genius. We are happy to say that the experiment thus far has been successful beyond our most sanguine expectations. We have earnestly striven to produce a paper which would embody as perfectly as possible the idea that should ever be kept in view in such publications, and the public has been so far appreciative that to-day the *Signal* is in as sound a position, commercially speaking,—to make it no stronger—as it was at any former period. The circulation has greatly increased, advertisers have been liberal, and thank Providence, we have been able to *pay our way*. In newspaper life that is saying a great deal. To make a fortune or lay by a store for a rainy day is out of the question—to keep even with the world is the utmost felicity that a newspaper publisher need ever expect.

If spared, it will be our endeavor, in the future, to advocate the same principles, to labor assiduously to produce a *newspaper*, to keep fully up with the times in all that is enterprising, and we confidently trust that our numerous friends throughout the counties will accord us their cheering assistance and support.

DUNKIN'S BILL.

The Temperance Act of 1864 is an experiment and nothing more. Taking for granted, as self-evident, the numerous ills inflicted upon society by the abuse of Alcoholic beverages, and being repeatedly urged by a large body of temperance men, who argued that the liquor traffic could and *should* be abolished, the Provincial Legislature adopted the Bill framed by Mr. Dunkin as a kind of go-between—not so sweeping as the Maine Law, and yet broad enough to enable whole Counties to place legal fetters upon the traffic in intoxicating compounds. Whether it will work all the good many of our temperance friends hope from its practical working is yet to be determined. In some respects we consider the Act weak, if not absolutely worthless. For example, although it gives each municipality the privilege of abolishing licenses to sell "Beer, Wine, and Spirituous Liquors," of what earthly benefit can such abolition be, if, as we know to have been frequently the case, the people of the "conterminous" municipality determine that they *shall not* lose the right to drink as much whiskey as they please. The result is obvious: the abolishing municipality loses more or less of revenue, and the thirsty souls do not mind going a little out of the way to get the accustomed horn of "blue-ruin," "tangle-leg," or "forty-rod." The source of the evil, in such cases, cannot possibly be said to be destroyed; its head is simply stricken off to rise hydra-like in a neighbouring township or town, as the case may be.—Leading roads, as our readers are aware, generally form the boundaries of municipalities, and the greatest number of taverns will invariably be found on these roads. Now, supposing two townships thus separated. You will generally find two or three taverns on each side of the road. Township of A adopts Dunkin's Bill and township B rejects it. What reform has been secured? Wherein has "King Alcohol" received his deathblow? Is there a glass of liquor the less poured down on that leading thoroughfare in consequence? Not a bit of it.—If the tavern-keepers on the A side do not choose to remove across the road, the B men will just drive a double business, perhaps more, for the A men, or those of them who love whiskey, will very likely, in accordance with a well-known phase of perverted human nature, drink, *twice as much* abroad, because it is forbidden at home. Take an example: Goderich township, we will suppose, adopts the By-Law, and the Huron Road taverns go by the board. When then? Goderich town lies at one corner, Clinton at another and Bayfield at the third; the people transact their business at these three places, and the tavern-keepers are only two glad to sell them as much liquor as they wish!—The logical inference is inevitable and cannot be thrust aside by any sophism, however ingenious. We do not blame the temperance people for trying the Bill, but we cannot see, after turning the subject to every possible light that any appreciable benefit will flow from the action.

Then again, there is a loophole in the Act through which a *wagon load of whiskey* may be driven with ease and safety. Sections 3 and 4 provide that brewers or storekeepers within the *prohibiting* municipality may expose for sale and sell liquors in quantities of five gallons and upwards. What a splendid opening it would prove for some unprincipled fellow to start a store containing very little dry goods a great deal of whiskey in a municipality wherein taverns were legally defunct. Men who really *love* drink can find means to purchase it when they are too poor to take a newspaper or clothe their children, and they will, as sure as anything can be, obtain their five gallons once in a while and have a "glorious spree." Why should any law discriminate between licensed taverns and licensed shops? What is simply poison in the glass is wholesale poison in the keg.—Taverns have this in their favour that, if decently conducted, (we are aware that ultra temperance men deny that such a thing is possible) they are convenient stopping-places for travellers who require food and lodging for themselves and their teams. But, say Mr. Dunkin's friends, taverns are the manufactories of drunkards. Granting that they are to a great extent, so are bees, raisings, social 'sprees,' &c., as we all know very well. Hundreds and thousands can date the commencement of their downward career to the bees and their drinking concomitants. If it was good to attempt the stoppage of drunkard manufacture in taverns, why would it not have been right and proper to stop the sale of liquor in five gallons to persons getting up bees, &c.; nay why should it be impossible to prohibit altogether the use of whiskey at such places? Did the legislature tickle the public with a half-way measure to allay the excitement, well knowing that the Provincial Revenue from liquors would not be a single whit diminished in the long run?

But there are clauses in the Bill of incalculable value, if they were only acted upon. We cite as most important, secs. 42 and 44:—

"The husband, wife, parent, brother, sister, tutor, guardian, or employer, of any person who has the habit of drinking intoxicating liquor to excess,—or the parent, brother, or sister, or the husband or wife of such person,—or the tutor or guardian of any child or children of such person,—may give notice in writing, signed by him or her, to any person licensed to sell, or who sells or is reputed to sell, intoxicating liquor of any kind, not to deliver intoxicating liquor to the person having such habit; and if the person so notified do at any time within twelve months after such notice, either himself, or by his clerk, servant, or agent, otherwise than in terms of a special requisition for medical purposes, signed by a licensed medical practitioner, deliver, or in or from any building, booth, or place occupied by him, and wherein or wherefrom any such liquor is sold, suffer to be delivered, any such liquor to the person having such habit, the person giving the notice may in an action as for personal wrong, (if brought within six months thereafter, but not otherwise,) recover of the person notified such sum not less less than twenty nor more than five hundred dollars, as may be assessed by the Court or Jury as damages; and any married woman may bring such action in her own name, without authorization by her husband; and all damages recovered by her shall in that case go to her separate use; and in case of the death of either party, the action and right of action given by this section shall survive to or against his legal representatives."

"In all places where by law intoxicating liquors or any particular description or descriptions of such liquors, are allowed to be sold by retail, no sale or other disposal of such liquors shall take place therein, or on the premises thereof, or out of or from the same, to any person whomsoever, from the hour of nine on Saturday evening, till the hour of six on the Monday morning thereafter,—except in cases where a special requisition for medical purposes, signed by a licensed medical practitioner, or by a Justice of the Peace, is produced by the vendee or his agent; nor shall any liquors be permitted to be drunk in any such place, except by travellers or by persons *bona fide* resident, lodging or boarding thereat during the time prohibited by this section for the sale of the same."

We think our temperance friends ought to have these provisions printed in largest letters, and use every means to secure their enforcement. At present they are shamefully neglected by the public and the last (44) especially is habitually set at nought throughout the country.

The above remarks are offered in a spirit of candor and not, heaven knows, because we wish to throw difficulties in the way of the advocates of temperance *in all things*. For our ourselves, we have always failed to discover in prohibitive laws of any kind a remedy for the social evils around us. Until the current of human nature is turned into a purer channel, men will inevitably be intemperate in eating, drinking, speaking and acting generally. The only way in which the awful evils flowing from intemperance in drinking can be abated is by the introduction of more harmless beverages, and above all, the training of youth in habits of strict sobriety. A young man restrained from forming an appetite for stimulants until he reaches the age of twenty-one, has ninety chances for a useful, sober and happy life for ten against such a desirable consummation. Temperance organizations are, we candidly believe, doing infinitely more for the good of society in this latter respect than can be accomplished by a dozen Acts of Parliament, and believing thus, we bid them a most cordial God-speed in the untrammeled use of Reason's mightiest engine—MORAL SUASION.

Extradition of Burley.

The U. S. Government having demanded the extradition of Burley under the treaty, he was sent away from Toronto on Thursday night last at *eleven o'clock*, and being conveyed by special train, was handed over to the tender mercies of the courts beyond the border. It is well for the satisfaction of Canadians that the highest legal authorities in the land were called in to decide whether or not this "chivalrous young Scotchman" had alienated himself from the protecting power of Britain. We bow to the decision as just and wise, and will watch his fate with the deepest interest.

The Alien Bill.

This measure finally passed on Thursday night, by a vote of 107 to 7. The dissentients were Messrs. M. C. Cameron, H. Cameron, F. Jones, J. S. Macdonald, Macfarlane, Scatcherd, and Shanley.

NO PEACE YET.

Mr. President Lincoln and Seward his Secretary have returned from their conference at City Point with Mr. Stephens, and a complete failure is announced. Although the whole affair has been involved in mystery, no doubts are entertained that the ultimatum of Mr. Lincoln was a return to the Union as a primary basis for further negotiations.—What volumes it speaks for the pluck of the Southerners that, after all the pummeling they have suffered lately, they still steadily persist in demanding their independence.—The struggle must now be resumed and fought out to the bitter end; an inscrutable Providence alone can tell what that end shall be. Almost any other people under the sun would give up in despair if hemmed in and crippled as the South is at this moment, but still *desperate men can perform prodigies of valor* and overcome odds even as great. Frederick the Great was frequently in a much worse strait than Lee is now, but he came out of the Seven Years' War crowned with victory and glory. Even the Revolutionary heroes immortalized in Beadle's Novels and the *Ledger* were at times in a more hopeless plight. If History repeats itself, why shall assert that this is not an occasion for the repetition.

CONFEDERATION.

The Confederation scheme, in so far as Canada is concerned, bids fair to become a *fait accompli*. The majority in favor of it in the Parliament is so sweeping and the objections so faint that it only depends upon the good nature of the Government whether it shall be pushed through by main force. Every opportunity, however, is given for full discussion, and it will only be adopted after each member has exhausted all he has to say on the subject. The indications are that the programme will be passed through all the stages without any amendment whatever.

LITERARY NOTICES.

NOTES ON FEDERAL GOVERNMENTS.—This is an able and exceedingly interesting little volume, marked by the eloquence and historical knowledge shown in all the efforts of the Author, Hon. T. D. McGee. We thank the Hon. gentleman for the copy sent us, and hope it may have the effect of diffusing knowledge upon a subject which is at present engaging so much attention in Canada.

NORTH BRITISH REVIEW for November is before us. Frequently as we have alluded to these invaluable reprints during the past year, we cannot allow the present opportunity to pass without directing attention to them afresh. They contain in politics emanations of the most enlightened wisdom—in literature dissertations from the most accomplished thinkers of the old world—in Art and Science, a reflection of the World's progress in all that can adorn life and benefit our race, and *they are thoroughly British* in tone and sentiment, thus recommending themselves to every intelligent Canadian reader. We invite attention to the advertisement of Leonard Scott & Co., of N. Y., which will be found elsewhere.

ATLANTIC MONTHLY.—The No. for February is replete with solid, usful and entertaining matter. It contains the opening part of a new story, "Dr. Johns," and possesses several other features of more than ordinary interest. For sale at this office.

OUR YOUNG FOLKS, February.—The contents of this beautiful little magazine for boys, are.—David Matson; The Sandpiper; The Portrait; Farming for Boys; Snow Fancies; The Baby of the Regiment; The Red Winged Goose; Afloat in the Forest; Christmas Bells; Andy's Adventures; Our Country Neighbors; Winning his Way; Trapped in a Tree; Round the Evening Lamp. Published by Ticknor & Fields, Boston, sold at this office.

A PICTORIAL DOUBLE NUMBER.—The Phrenological Journal and Life Illustrated, for January, appears with 32 quarto pages, and a beautiful illustrated cover. It contains portraits of Tennyson, Silliman, Sheridan, Cobb, Philips, Susanna Wesley—mother of John—an Indian Chief, Franz Muller, Miss Muggins, Miss Fury, the Princess of Wales, Florence Nightingale, a group of Warriors—Hannibal, Julius Cæsar, Pizarro, Cromwell, Charles XII., Frederick the Great, Scott, Wellington and Napoleon, with Ethnology, Phrenology, Physiognomy, Physiology, and Psychology. No. 1. Vol. 41st. Published at 20 cents a Number, or $2.00 a year, by Messrs. Fowler & Wells, 389 Broadway, New York.

The Assessment Rolls.

The following circular has been sent to the various County Councils. It has been found that, simple as the law is with regard to the filling up of the Militia columns in the Assessment Rolls numerous errors have been made by assessors. Township Councils should be careful to give their assessors clear instructions as to the proper ages and other conditions, separating the male population into 1st, 2nd and reserve class men. The whole thing is as simple as A. B. C., and should be done with unvarying correctness:

MILITIA DEPARTMENT.

Adjutant General's Office,
QUEBEC, Jan. 19, 1865.

SIR,—I beg to request that you will call the attention of the Assessors of the Municipality, in taking the Annual Assessment, to the requirements of the 6th Section of the Militia Act of 1863, particularly with respect to the filling up correctly the three additional columns required, with the *Names* and *Residences* of First and Second Class Service men and Reserve men, respectively.

By reference to Sub section 1 of Section 25, it will be seen that the Battalion Rolls of the Ballot of the Service Militia must be defective if the Municipal Rolls, from which the County Rolls are prepared, do not show in the proper columns the class to which the parties respectively belong, or if the residences are not specially designated by "lot, concession or range," &c.

I have the honor to be, Sir,
Your most obedient servant,
W. POWELL,
Lt. Colonel.
Deputy Adjutant General of Militia, Upper Canada.

☞ A terrible tragedy occurred at the Treasury Department, Washington, about 4 o'clock on Monday afternoon. A clerk named Burrows was shot and instantly killed by a woman named Harris, who was lying in wait for him in the hall of one of the bureaus of that department.

Proposed Alterations in the Municipal Law.

The committee appointed to revise the Municipal and Assessment Laws of Upper Canada have held several meetings, numerously attended, and have considered with much care a number of particulars in which improvements have been suggested. The committee consists of Mr. McKellar, chairman, Attorney General McDonald, Solicitor General Cockburn, Messrs J. Hillyard Cameron, Thomas Ferguson, Jackson, D A McDonald, Dickson, Dunsford, McConkey, A. McKenzie, McGiverin, Stirton, Wells, Walsh, Amos Wright and Street.

The following are the more important memoranda of amendments made thus far, as generally approved by the committee. They will again be gone over, however, and a formal vote taken on each:—

Qualification in cities, towns and incorporated villages, for aldermen and councilmen, to be allowed on personal property as well as on freehold and leasehold.

In cities, councillors to be abolished, each ward returning two aldermen, who shall retire each alternate year. In towns, two councillors for each ward, retiring alternate years. This amendment was unanimously approved.

The qualification of municipal electors in townships to be the same as the Parliamentary qualification.

Wards in townships to be abolished.

The establishment of electoral districts to be optional, in which each elector shall have as many votes as there are electors to be elected.

The election of Mayors to be in Council. This amendment is opposed by Messrs McKellar, Cockburn, A. Mackenzie, and Mc. Giverin; Mr. McKellar has introduced a Bill to make reeves and deputy-reeves, as well as mayors, elective by the people, and a good many petitions in its favor has come in.

Only real estate owners to vote on by-laws creating debt. If a by-law for that purpose has been permitted to stand for one year, it shall not afterwards be quashed, on the ground of any informality.

A township which commences a drain under the Municipal Act to be permitted to carry it into an adjoining township, and to charge their share of the cost to lands in that township benefitted by the work.

One of a union of counties may issue debentures on its own credit for improvements of its own.

The regulation of the salary of the chief of police to be in the hands of the police commissioners.

Towns, townships and villages to have the same powers as counties as to the establishment of lock up houses.

The establishment of one or more houses of industry made imperative instead of optional for counties, and also for cities and towns separated from counties.

All towns with a population above 5,000 shall have a police magistrate.

Rebel Peace Commissioners.

The report has doubtless a foundation, even if the persons aforesaid have not yet passed Gen. Grant's lines. There will be peace messages int rchanged between the two cities just named, and there will be peace—precisely at what time or on what terms, we do not pretend to know. The gold gamblers who "sold short" yesterday were not the silly dupes of a baseless rumor, and the return of peace cannot be distant. We repeat that the new draft has but to be heartily responded to, and the war is substantially over. Probably not one-fifth of the men called for will ever be required to leave their respective States, provided the quotas shall be promptly filled.—*Tribune.*

The Stephens is the Vice-President of the Confederacy; Mr. Hunter, the ablest member of its Senate, and Judge Campbell was formerly a member of our Supreme Court. Their weight and standing in the Southern community guarantee the sincerity of their mission, and if the Southern people desire peace they could not be represented by more fitly chosen agents. A commission from the Confederate government would only impede and embarass their mission, inasmuch as President Lincoln would not receive them in any capacity which implied the recognition of such a government. That their visit to Washington has the approval, or at least the countenance of, Mr Davis, is proved by the fact that they were permitted by him to pass the lines. It is a reasonable presumption, therefore, that whatever they may agree to, will receive his favorable consideration. If these respectable gentlemen, so soon after Mr. Blair's repeated visits to Richmond, and the full explanations he must have given, think the chances of peace are sufficient to warn this embassy, it is a hopeful symptom which the country will but too eagerly welcome. The subject, now for the first time, assumes such an air of business that we will not trust ourselves to speculate on it till better advised of the facts.—*N. Y. World.*

Arrival of the Peace Commissioners.

FORT MONROE, Feb. 2.—Messrs. Stephens, Hunter and Campbell, and other Confederate Peace Commissioners, arrived here this p. m., from City Point in Lieut.-General Grant's special dispatch steamer, the Mary Martin. Secretary Seward was on board the steamer River Queen, waiting to receive them. Immediately upon the arrival of the Commissioners both steamers proceeded to an anchorage in the stream side by side. At this writing, 5 o'clock, as the Louisiana leaves for Baltimore, the steamers are still out in the stream.

THE NAVY OF ENGLAND.—The official return of the number, name, tonnage, armament, and horse power of steamers and sailing ships, composing the British Navy, published on the 1st of January, 1865, under the authority of the Admiralty, states that the total strength of the navy of England numbers 765 ships of all classes, exclusive of which there are now building at various dockyards, 28 others, which will mount from 1 to 81 guns each, and many of which are far advanced towards completion. Of the above number of vessels 350 line-of-battle ships, frigates, corvettes, sloops, &c., are ready to put to sea at a short notice, exclusive of about a hundred gunboats. The number at present in commission and doing duty in various parts of the globe amounts to 224, besides 48 gunboats; and there are also in commission 48 coast-guard cruisers, and 38 watch-vessels. The above total may be summarized thus: 342 effective line-of-battle ships, frigates, corvettes, sloops, &c., mounting from 1 to 131 guns each; 114 screw gunboats, from 200 to 270 tons each; 193 sailing ships, many of which are in commission; 115 employed in harbor service as receiving ships, hospital ships, powder depots, coal depots, &c.; 48 coast guard cruisers, and 38 coast guard watch-vessels.

Fifteen Townships For the Temperance Law.

[*To the Editor of the Montreal Witness.*]

SIR,—I would like very much to see a list of all the townships that have passed the prohibitory by-law. Perhaps no section can boast of so many townships in one block, all joining in some way or other, as this section. Fifteen townships—namely, Cavan, Emily, Smith, Otonabee, Asphodel, Monaghan, North and South, Verulam, Fenelon, Somerville, Snowdon, Eldon, Manvere, Haldimand, and Darlington—have been carried, mostly, by a vote of the electors, and some with large majorities. Some of the townships were stubbornly disputed, as Cavan, Fenelon, Verulam; others had very little opposition, as South Monaghan, and Smith. The principles of temperance have been nobly defended here by ministers of the Gospel and others.

Mount Pleasant, Jan. 20th, 1865. W. B.

☞ The *Star* understands that Mr. Elihu Barritt is appointed United States consul at Birmingham.

Apprentice Wanted.

WANTED at this office immediately a smart, active, intelligent boy, 14 or 15 years old, to learn the printing business.—Applicant must possess a good common-school education. Apply without delay to

W. T. COX,
Signal office.

Town & Counties

TAXES.—The collector, Mr. McKay, notifies all persons who have not paid their taxes to do so before the 8th inst., and save further trouble.

ONE OF THE REASONS.—A person discontinuing his subscription to the *Signal* recently, assigned as his reason that his neighbors were nearly all commencing to take it, and he could borrow it just as well as not. Why not borrow his neighbor's pantaloons or shirt. It would be quite as reasonable.

Passports.

We observe that Mr. James Thomson, Town Clerk of Goderich, has been duly appointed Issuer of Passports for this section. He is the only person so authorised West of Stratford, which those interested will do well to bear in mind.

A CLINTON CORRESPONDENT feels surprised that we did not publish his reply to Mr. Sherlock, (which, by the way, covered some six or seven closely written pages,) although he must have known that our regular Clinton correspondent was doing full justice to his side of the subject.—We desire to show fair play all round, but we cannot and *will not* give up one or two columns of this paper to any writer who has only to reply to a few lines.

SOIREE.

The Soiree in the New Connexion Methodist Church last night (2nd) was a very successful affair. There were about 300 people present. The guests partook of a sumptuous repast in the basement, after which they entered the body of the church and listened to able and interesting speeches from Revds. Messrs. McCappin, Fletcher and Mackid. D. Kerr, jr., Esq., occupied the chair. The singing of the choir under the leadership of Mr. James Thomson was splendid and seemed to give great satisfaction to the audience. The meeting, after spending a few very pleasant hours, broke up about half-past ten o'clock.

Robbery on Saturday night.

A very glaring case of larceny was committed at the Market in this town on Saturday night last. It seems that some person or persons unknown entered the Market House by means of a duplicate key and removed a hog belonging to Mr. Sloan, a sheep and smaller pieces of meat from Mr. T. Andrews, two loins of beef and some mutton from Mr, Carson, and a quantity of meat from Mr. W. Andrews. A sleigh must have been used in the operation, but as it was a wild stormy night the depredators got off unseen. Search warrants were issued on Monday morning, but no traces of the haul could be discovered. It is some slight consolation to think that the vaillains guilty of such acts are pretty sure to spend the evening of their lives in the Penitentiary.

The Benfit Concert

To Mr. Bannatyne is advertised to come off in the Court House on Friday evening next. From all we can learn the project meets with universal favor, and we have seen gentlemen from places as distant as Bayfield who announce their determination to be present. The gathering should and we believe *will* be a very large one. Mr Bannatyne's writings have been admired and prized by hundreds of our readers who can appreciate true talent, and now that they have an opportunity of contributing their mite towards the benefit of one who has done so much for them, it will be a lasting disgrace if the opportunity is lost. Let there be a crammed house on Friday night! Let us take the *man* by the hand and make him feel for once that under some circumstances a prophet *may* obtain honor in his own country. We invite particular attention to the excellent *poetical* contribution of Mr. R. D. Scott in another column.

Town Council.

The following are the Standing Committees for the current year:

Finance.—The Mayor, Reeve, Booth, Cameron and Runciman.

Roads and Bridges.—Messrs. Runciman, Clifford, Dancy, McKay and the Reeve.

Revision, By-Laws and Assessment.—Longworth, Cameron, Horton, Runciman and the Reeve.

Cemetery.—The Deputy Reeve, Smith, Hays, Clifford and Dancy.

Fire Department.—Horton, Clifford, McKay, Hays, and Smith.

Relief.—The Mayor, Horton, Clifford, Booth and Smith.

Market Committee.—Booth, Dancy, Hays, Clifford, and Longworth.

Harbour.—Cameron, Gibbons, Dancy, Horton, McKay.

The next meeting will take place on the last Friday of February.

GODERICH TOWNSHIP.

FIRE.—On Tuesday night a brilliant light was seen from this town, apparently somewhere in Goderich township. Next morning it was discovered to have been the barn of Mr. James Churchill, which was burned to the ground; supposed incendiarism. Four of this family have suffered a like calamity within the past year, on account, it is hinted, of their having given evidence in a trial for murder, which will be fresh in the memory of our readers.

DUNKIN'S ACT ADOPTED BY A MAJORITY OF 80!

The vote on the By-Law to abolish tavern licenses in Goderich township was taken at the Big Hills on Saturday, 4th, and Monday, 6th. The whole affair passed off without any disturbance whatever, and the By-Law was adopted by a majority of 80. We shall now be able to see if any appreciable reform is affected by the measure when put in operation.

EGMONDVILLE.

The vote on Dunkin's Temperance Bill is to be taken in Tuckersmith on the 10th and in McKillop on the 24th inst. People are getting excited and a rousing spree is anticipated. The temperance folk are hammering away on the abolition anvil with a will, and I observe that the opponents of the measure are using the Press on their side in the way of issuing addresses, handbills, &c., of the latter here is a specimen:

"An insidious attempt to pass Dunkin's Bill. An attempt is about to be made by a number of Hypocritical Teetotalers, in the Township of Tuckersmith, to pass this odious law. All lovers of freedom and fair play are requested to attend on the 10th day of February next, at the School House, Egmondville, to show by their votes that they will not allow such impertinent interference with their private business.

HAY.

THE VOTE ON DUNKIN'S TEMPERANCE ACT.

[From our own Correspondent.]

There is quite a bustle in the snug little Village of Zurich to-day. I dare to say that there was never such a gathering in the capital of our township before. Bells ringing, flags flying, streets full, taverns crowded, all combined present to the quiet sight-seer an animated scene. If he had been an entire stranger and ignorant of the object of such a turn-out, the continuous stream of comers and goers to that neat and commodious building, the Town Hall, would have given him an inkling that something extraordinarily interesting to the ratepayers of the township was afoot; and if he understood 'Dutch,' and will force himself into that crowd in front of the taverns, and will listen to that gentle man on the platform, who is gesticulating violently, and talking volubly in the language of Faderland, he will conclude at once that there is an attempt being made that day to cut down the taverns in the township. The orator, a tall, thin, nervous individual, is inveighing bitterly against the temperance men, calling them hypocritical tyrants, &c., and calling upon every lover of their adopted country to come forward and nip this thing in the bud, for if they carry this they will next be wanting to dictate to them when and where and how they shall eat. He was cheered to the echo at the close of his speech. A stout, well-fed, comfortable-looking gentleman stepped forward to reply. You would infer at once from his general appearance and movements that either him or his had seen Holland. His replies to many of the arguments of his opponent were truthful, but he was behind in ability, and far behind in asperity, and made little impression. It made little difference, however, for no amount of eloquence could convince nine out of every ten in that crowd, that anybody had any right to presume to throw any obstacle in the way of their getting their much loved glass of beer. This informal meeting is a pretty good criterion of the whole township. It was perfect nonsense for the temperance men to make the attempt—they were told five weeks ago, by some who ought to know well, that they would not poll fifty votes in the township for 'no License.' On going to the Town Hall at about 2 o'clock p. m., I find that this prediction is likely to be verified.—The poll stands 90 for license to 11 no license. The temperance men look dull and dejected, and appear to have made no arrangements for bringing out even what strength they have. I repeatedly hear the remark made that Dunkin should amend his Bill by adding to it a clause that in townships such as this where there was no possible hope of carrying a no License By-Law, that the requisionists should pay the expenses. At the close of the poll to day the vote stood 24 for the By Law, 105 for the Taverns. The general opinion is that the affair should terminate here, but the powers that be conclude that the poll shall be kept open to morrow.

The weather has been beautiful to day—a sleigh-ride was pleasant and enjoyable.

To-day, Friday, there is a change in the weather—cold rain is falling plenteously. I am afraid it will drench out the energy of the cold water men altogether, and that they will not put in an appearance at all. The poll opened at ten o'clock and was closed at eleven, an hour having elapsed without a vote being offered for the By Law, and with over one hundred present ready to record their vots against it. Such is the end of what our cousins across the lines would call a fizzle.—In my communication to you relative to the vote on the license question in the adjoining township of Stanley, I gave it as my opinion that if the temperance men there increased as they have done, they would carry their point in three years; by the same process of reasoning I come to the conclusion that it will be twenty years before such a measure can be carried in the township of Hay.

Hay, Feb. 3rd, 1865.

☞ We have received from a correspondent in Usborne a letter written in the broadest kind of broad Scotch dialect, which is no doubt a very good thing, but as we cannot read a single line of the effusion, it will hardly appear in print. If newspaper correspondents would adopt Lord Palmerston's advice and write in a large, clear hand, their letters would not find their way to the waste basket so frequently.

CLINTON.

To the Editor of the Huron Signal.

DEAR SIR,

I am at a loss to understand why you should desire to have the questions proposed respecting the value of the certificates of our County of Huron Board of Public Instruction, just as it is reaching the very point from which a clear view of it can be gained by the public. It is true, as you say, that I have stated my case and there has been a very gentlemanly attempt to explain away the strange, not to say suspicious, conduct of the Board. To my view, however, the question is too momentous to be so wilingly let die, since on the faithful, impartial and careful conduct of the Board in the discharge of the duties committed to them depends what seems to me the most important interest that our community has to deal with—the interest of education. With your permission, then, sir, I will test the skill of the knight wearing the new visor, who has so suddenly appeared at our point. In reference to my former assertion I must confess that I answered him some what according to his folly, though I think the gentleman deserved every stroke that he got, as his last letter manifests such a persistency in ungentlemanly conduct on his part, that now I have one to contend with who is a little more sharp in his intellect. I feel inclined to be compassionate, and therefore shall let my old friend's rejoinder pass for what it is worth, feeling satisfied that it will not be overestimated by any one whose good opinion is worth the possessing.

"A GRAMMAR SCHOOL TRUSTEE," with a simplicity that is perfectly ludicrous in one occupying so high a position, gravely replies to a figure of speech that I used—"torn to tatters"—as if it had been spoken literally (a blunder from which the context ought to have preserved him), and from two instances which he mentions of indignant teachers tearing their low grade certificates "to tatters," draws the conclusion that the statement is "complimentary to the Board" and that the said teachers' conduct bears "direct testimony to its faithfulness." It is humiliating, sir to think that we have a man in the position of a Grammar School Trustee so little acquainted with the art of composition and the usages of writers that he cannot discern a figure of speech from a statement of fact, and the reflection again naturally suggests itself—if such be our County Board Examiners, what must the examined be? I suppose, sir, I must needs explain to "A Grammar School Trustee" that I evade no allusion whatever to any teacher or teachers having torn their certificates to tatters, but that I said Mr. Hart tore them to tatters, meaning thereby that Mr Hart showed the utter worthlessness of them as evidences of scholarship on the part of their possessors. "The lion," Mr. Grammarian, "is as no such thing;" he is "Bottom the Weaver" of Midsummer Night's Dream, "a play to be found in the dramatic works of our William Shakspeare, an Englishman, sir, of some note that probably you may have heard of, and" when found make a note on."

I have no disposition to enter into an argument with so redoubtable a champion as a "Grammar School Trustee" respecting the value of certificates granted by our County Board as compared with those of other counties. I may say, however, that until some more satisfactory proof can be given of the superiority of the Huron Board certificates than the fact of two without possessing first class certificates from other county boards being deemed unworthy of such here, and that one of them even only secured a third class certificate for six months I for one must be excused from having any confidence in them whatever. These facts, if they prove anything, prove one of two things—either that our Huron Board of Examiners are quite incompetent to perform the duties that are required of them, or that the Boards of three other Counties in the Province are, one of them being the County of Oxford and the others the Counties of Waterloo and Ontario. People will have their own opinions which are unlikely to be changed—this one or the three. For my part, having very limited means of judging the characters of the various members of our Board, in respect of their qualifications for the office, beyond the public utterances of two members of it, I am inclined to think that the County Board of Huron is more likely to be in fault than are those of Oxford, Waterloo and Ontario.

"A GRAMMAR SCHOOL TRUSTEE" endeavours to explain the conduct of the Board in granting certificates to teachers whom they have not examined by saying that the certificates were merely "extended" (or "renewed" as he expresses it in another place) on the ground of exceptionable circumstances. He also adds that the literary qualifications of the candidates were well known and that any Local Superintendent could have done it independent of the Board, and he asks if it is wrong for the Board to do what a Local Superintendent could do. He makes mention of two cases of this kind which occurred in December, 1863, and to these I can add another which occurred in August, 1864. Now I would like to be informed where the Board gets the power to do this. I have been unable to discover any such power granted to them by the Statute, and it is very properly withheld from them in my opinion, for to give such a power into the hands of the Board would be to open the door to just such irregularities as we have been exposing. So far from the Statute giving a Local Superintendent the power, as a Grammar School Trustee asserts, it expressly withholds it in all cases where the Teacher has had an opportunity since being employed, of attending an examination. Local Superintendents can only grant certificates "on due examination," "until the next ensuing meeting of the Board," and no such certificate is valid if given a second time to the same person in the same county. "A Grammar School Trustee" should learn the duties pertaining to his office better. I do not doubt that the literary qualifications of one of the teachers whose certificate was thus "renewed" were well known to one of the members of the Board as I have it on good authority that he expressed himself as having had hard work four years before to get the said certificate for the said teacher—his conduct thus savouring strongly of partiality, an evil, the very appearance of which ought to be avoided by the Board.

"A. G. S. T." complains of the indefiniteness of my statement that in some of the commonest branches of education first-class teachers are not examined. I may say that reading is the branch particularly alluded to, and for my authority I have inquired of several teachers who ought surely to know. It is true that it would be quite unnecessary to examine teachers in A B C, because the higher branches could not be understood without the knowledge of the alphabet, but I would remind "A G S. T." that it does not *therefore* follow that a smart Grammarian, Arithmetician, or Geometrician can read with ease, intelligence or expression, or be familiar with the principles of reading and pronunciation.

In conclusion, sir, if you will admit this I promise you it shall be the last I shall trouble you with on this subject, let the provocation be what it may.

'Canada our Home.'

In our lengthy report of the Sills Dinner we could not make room for the following speech by Mr. Peter McDonald in response to the toast of 'Canada our Home'. It appears now by special request.

In rising to respond to this important toast I feel a degree of responsibility because I am unable to do it justice. And sir, I also feel a diffidence in rising after such an oratorical display from my learned predecessors. But sir, what my speech will lack in importance my subject will contain it. My subject is one the very name of which is sufficient to bring to mind with a degree of honest pride the words of the poet when he says:

"Canada this our Province fair,
The fertile soil, the verdant plain,
The noble est land beyond compare
On the nearest side of the western main."

I will endeavor to sketch as brief as I can some of the improvements which have taken place in our province since it became ours. I will first glance back a few years and recall a few events of our Canadian history. From the time Jaques Cartier planted the flag of his French monarch upon the verdant shores of Canada and took possession of this country in the name of Francis I., up to the time when it became the property of the British Crown, there are no events to relate but the wars and contests between the settlers and the savage Indians who opposed their establishment. Although the French had possession of Canada for a long time yet her settlements did not extend far westward and did not even reach what we now call the Upper Province but confined themselves to the eastern valley of the St. Lawrence. Not till the Anglo Saxon gained this fair jewel under their invincible chief, upon the blood-stained plains of Abraham and hoisted that flag upon the highest pinnacle of the Citadel of Quebec, "which braved a thousand years the battle and the breeze," did Canada sway her sceptre westward. For a time after the conquest the people were ruled by the rigor of martial law, but it was very distasteful to those whose forefathers fought and shed their blood for those vital principles of a constitutional government. Such was their dislike to this system of government that they began to murmur, and after a few modifications none of which came up to their standard till they got in 1792 a constitutional government granted them in which were embodied these all important principles—freedom of election and responsibility of members to the people. Now the colonists were pacified into quite contentment and each one all turned his attention to the improvement of the country. The two nationalities blending their energies in one common interest. In 1776 there occurred an event which tested the loyalty of the Canadian people to the British Crown. The inhabitants of the then thirteen States of America put forth inflammatory appeals to the Canadians of the two nationalities to assist them to throw off the allegiance of the mother country, but such appeals were received with indignation. The Americans thus finding no aid from a part they expected, they resolved to invade and destroy our interests by a hostile army. But the Saxon and the Gaul said with one assent.

"We are brothers now, for a common flag
Un urls its folds to protect us all,
It waves so proudly o'er you fortress crag,
And by its side we will stand or fall."

(Cheers.)

The Gaul recalled to mind the brilliant achievements of his ancestors upon the bloody plains of a Merengo, an Austerlitz, and a Borodian. The Anglo Saxon upon the other hand recalled to mind the valiant deeds of his ancestors upon the sanguinary field of a Waterloo, an Inkerman, and a Balaklava, and many others which gild with fame their ancestral names. And then vowed by these immortal names to unite in defence of their common country. And so they did. Upon the very field on which fell their own two chieftains some few years previous now fell the chieftain of their enemy, Montgomery. The enemy were shortly after driven beyond the limits of the country and dove like pigeons once more restored to Canada. During these years Canada received an influx of immigration from the disloyal States, those who refused to throw off their allegiance to the mother country. Notwithstanding the appeals and threats that were made to them they would not, they could not injure that land which gave them birth, or raise their hand to pull down that flag which is ever the emblem of liberty.

"For it our loyalist fathers bore
The loss of all but the hate of foes,
For it they left the disloyal shore,
And found a home where Ontario roars.
Where'er this noble flag is seen
'Tis joyous still as the star of day,
For freedom's flag it has ever been
And still shall be till time's decay."

(Cheers.)

It was now that the wilderness of the West began to feel the influence of the white man. You see then that a century has not elapsed ye since the pioneer with the axe upon his shoulder marched into the wilds of Upper Canada, to do battle with the grand forest which then cloth