The Speech of Hon. George Brown

ON 'CONSTITUTIONAL CHANGES.'

From the Quebec Mercury.

[*The motion was published in our last.*]

Hon. Mr. BROWN, in moving the above, said that during the debate on the Address, an hon. gentleman opposite made a remark in regard to the position which he held on the subject of Representation according to Population. He did not then make any reply, because, in the first place, he did not think it of any great moment that he should justify his course of conduct. It mattered very little whether he was consistent or not, or whether other advocates of the principle were consistent or not. The great matter was the merit of the question itself, altogether apart from the position which individuals may hold upon it. With regard to himself he had very little fear of being misunderstood in the country, however much he might be misunderstood or maligned in the House. Another reason why he made no reply at that time was that he was about to bring forward this resolution, and he thought it would be exceedingly undesirable to call up any party feelings in relation to it. He would fain believe that they had reached that point when the question of the great difference between the population of Upper and Lower Canada could be approached without party feelings being excited—that political feelings upon it had so far subsided as to enable every hon. gentleman to see that it was absolutely necessary that we should have all causes of variance between the two sections removed—that the time had come when they could approach a question like this with a degree of harmony that they never could bring to its consideration in former times. He had sought to bring the subject before the House in the least objectionable form. He did not now bring forward a proposition of his own, but appeared as a defender of the policy that was enunciated by his hon. friends on the opposite side of the House—the hon. Mr. Cartier and the hon. John Ross. (Hear, hear.) He determined that he would take ground that could be assailed—that was perfectly indisputable—that both sides of the House had agreed to. He would ask his hon. friends opposite to take that course now that they considered it desirable to take five years ago. Hon. gentlemen would please observe the clear, unmistakeable and incontestable grounds on which his hon. friends based their appeal, and the comprehensive manner in which they approached the subject. He was sure there was no hon. gentleman on the floor of the House who would not subscribe to every one of the propositions. The hon. gentlemen composing the deputation spoke not for themselves only, but for the whole cabinet and for the country. There never was wiser or more sound and patriotic advice given by Ministers of the Crown than was given by his Excellency's advisers upon this subject, in the words he had quoted.

Hon. Mr. CARTIER—That is the first time you have ever said so—the first time you ever gave us credit for sound advice.

Hon. Mr. BROWN replied that he could on that account say it with the more force now. And he could say it with all his heart. If he had been unable to give the honorable gentleman at the Government credit for what good actions they might have performed upon other subjects, he had always given them credit for their bold and manly enunciations on this, and he had been sorry that the Government of his hon. friend from Kingston had not carried the question to a practical result. He asked no more, at present, by his motion than that a committee should be appointed to consider the great propositions which the hon. gentlemen had laid down in 1859, when acting in the responsible position of sworn advisers of the Crown. Some hon. gentlemen might be of opinion that there was not sufficient ground for the advice tendered to His Excellency at that period. Well, he was fully prepared to show that the advice was most wise, and that the positions taken were perfectly indisputable. It must be observed that the advice referred to was given in 1859, when they had nothing later than the census of 1851-2 to guide them and substantiate their positions. But we now had the census of 1861, which showed that the population of Upper Canada had gained very largely upon that of Lower Canada, and that if the statements alluded to were true in 1859, they were doubly true in 1864. They said that at that time there was a grave disparity between the population of the two sections respectively, and that it was necessary that the evils growing out of that disparity should be provided for by a fair representation on the floor of that House. By the census of 1861, the population of Upper Canada was shown to be 1,396,091, while that of Lower Canada was but 1,111,566, making a majority in the Upper section of 284,525. Three years had elapsed since that census was taken, and at the same same ratio of increase as that exhibited during the previous nine years—Upper Canada at 4½ per cent. and Lower Canada at 2½ per cent—the difference must now be 333,181. (Hear, hear.) But the ratio of the previous nine years was not a fair one, he thought, to apply to the past three years, for it was well known that the population of Upper Canada had increased at a much greater ratio during the past few years, in many of the western counties, than for many years before. Some hon. gentlemen had given it as their opinion that Lower Canada would eventually settle the question by such an increase of her population as would give a reasonable prospect of an equality being eventually obtained. (Hear, hear.) None would be more rejoiced if a solution were arrived at in that way than himself, and if Lower Canada obtained a preponderance, he would be quite willing to accord her a proportional increase of her representation. But there was no prospect whatever that the question would ever be settled in that way. At the time of the last apportionment of members, the ratio was a member for every fifteen thousand of a population, and taking that basis, Upper Canada was now entitled to twenty-six more members than Lower Canada; but at the present proportion, in Lower Canada, of members to population, the Western section would be entitled to a preponderance of twenty members. It was a proposition that could not be disputed, that the 334,000 Upper Canadians ought to have an representation on the floor of the House. That large number of the people of his section of the Province was practically disfranchised. The relative amount of taxation borne by the two sections, also, carried with it a very strong argument in favor of some change. (Hear, hear.) He might proceed to analyse the Public Accounts, page after page, and show that a very large preponderance of the whole taxation was borne by the people of Upper Canada. Very fortunately, however, it was necessary for him to do that. He could stand on the doctrines enunciated by honorable gentlemen opposite, The honorable member for Montreal East, when addressing his constituents in Verchères, had alleged that Upper Canada paid two thirds of the entire taxation of the Province. That was in 1855, and nearly ten years had since passed, making a greater disparity than formerly, as he had shown, in the population, and increasing the proportion of the taxation. He, the speaker, was not satisfied that even at that time, Upper Canada did not pay for more than two thirds of the taxation, but he was willing to take that figure for argument's sake. The honorable member for Kingston had also declared that his section of the country paid two thirds of the taxation. He would put it to the people of Lower Canada whether, in case they had a preponderance of 333,000 of population, and paid two thirds of the taxation, they would quietly submit, without a murmur or an effort, to be deprived of the increased representation to which they would thereby be entitled.

Mr. PERRAULT—The hon. gentleman ought to remember that we were in that position once.

Hon. Mr. BROWN replied that he never approved of that state of things, and if he had been in Parliament he would undoubtedly have been found advocating Representation according to Population. He asked no more for Upper Canada than he was willing to concede to Lower Canada, if the tables were turned. But the lesser representation of Lower Canada after the Union, in proportion to population, was a matter of Imperial policy with which the colonist had nothing to do. But all the disadvantage that Lower Canada labored under at that time had been more than repaid, long ago. In 1847 the population of Upper Canada passed that of Lower Canada. The latter had the disadvantage of an undue representation, to a slight extent, for seven years, but Upper Canada had now borne a greatly augmented injustice for seventeen years. For all that time Upper Canada had not only been deprived of proper representation, but had borne the heavy end of the taxation. Oh, but, it is said, the Union inherited a heavy debt from Upper Canada. But the surplus of the taxation paid by Upper Canada had more than paid the interest of that debt, so that Lower Canada had not suffered in the slightest degree from the Union on that account. He did not complain of the paying of a larger amount than one-half of the taxes. On the contrary, the people of Upper Canada were quite willing to pay in proportion to their population and their wealth, but they could not be expected to endure being kept constantly in a position of disadvantage—deprived of the right to an equal representation, according to their population, or wealth, with Lower Canadians.—He did not wish to bring back this great question on pounds, shillings and pence, but this consideration came up incidentally. There had been a measure recently to increase the revenue from excise duties, and the taxation apportioned to Upper Canada was $578,231; to Lower Canada, $192,932. But although this disproportion was so great, the people of Upper Canada did not complain of that; they complained that they had no equitable representation in the parliament of this Province. Some remedy must be found for this state of things; for he was no statesman, no friend of the Province at large, no friend of Lower Canada who endeavored to avoid the settlement of that question. He might show that with regard to industry and exports Upper Canada was decidedly in advance of Lower Canada. In the matter of wheat, for instance, he found that in 1861, the Upper Province was credited for twenty-four millions bushels, and the Lower Province for two millions six hundred and fifty-four thousand bushels—that was to say, twenty-four millions to two. The proportion in other agricultural products was largely in favor of the Upper Province. In Upper Canada there were nine million bushels of peas to show against two in Lower Canada; in oats the Upper Province was the greatest producer, and in butter could show twenty-four millions against fourteen. Now, whether as regard population, taxation, or exports, he affirmed that the people of Upper Canada were far in advance of Lower Canada; and he would also assert that the inhabitants of the Upper Province were placed in a most injurious and in a most unfair position, when they were asked to be content with the present number of representatives on the floor of this House. The people of the Upper Province asked no more than Lower Canada on account of bearing heavier taxes, on account of larger industrial products, but on the ground of population they felt they were entitled to representation on a more extended scale.—This was the sole reference on which he intended to make this a sectional question, and he regretted it was necessary to go that length. He would now wish to call attention to the position of this question in a united point of view. There—for instance—was the hon. member for Huron and Bruce, sitting as the representative of 79,453 souls, while there were no fewer than ten members of this House sitting for the same population. His friends from Lower Canada thought they could go on with that system; but he would tell them that they laboured under a delusion.—To look at it in another light, he would state that there were thirty-nine members sitting here for half the population, and ninety one for the other half. Could any one state that this was right? He could not conceive that any one would say so. He would say so.—He would recommend the hon. members for Montreal East and Sherbrooke to ponder this matter well, to dismiss the question of politics, go into the Committee Room, and have the matter settled once for all. If the present state of things were defended on the ground of territory, wealth, education, on family or hereditary grounds he could understand the matter, for there was common sense in all these claims to a certain extent, but there could be no argument for the absurd system we had in force here. Was it because there happened to be an absurd line drawn in 1791, that the present state of things was to continue? Were we to declare that no matter what happened we were to keep up that line, and have always the same state of things exist on either side? A more senseless proceeding he could not conceive, than to argue that a line drawn seventy years ago, was to exist for all time. If a man went to the United States, or to Europe, and if he were asked what sort of representation we had here, and if he replied that it was regulated by a line drawn in 1791, when the two Provinces were separate, and that they were brought into union on the same conditions, he would be laughed at. There could be no doubt that such a state of things would be laughed to scorn in any other country, where people knew any of the details of free institutions. Were any argument necessary to sustain his position, it was the position in which parties were found at the present moment.—Nothing could show more clearly the necessity for some change in our system of representation than the position in parts of the Province at the present time. It had been the case ever since the Union that Upper and Lower Canada had had a line drawn between them, and of late years, the question had especially come to this point, "which is to preponderate?" It had come to be the question—Is Upper Canada to rule Lower Canada, or is the lower to rule the Upper Province? This was the position we now to speak and we had the spectacle of a Ministry, with a large majority from Upper Canada, and an Opposition with a large majority from Lower Canada. But it could not be said that this Administration was not supported by Lower Canada on account of its measures—there was no opposition on that account. He had listened attentively to the debate on the Address, and he had not heard any one object to the policy of the Administration; he had heard objections to acts and to persons, but not to any public measure. (Hear, hear.)

Hon. Mr. CARTIER.—We will see when the time comes.

Hon. Mr. BROWN said that a large number of measures had been passed in the 8, each and it was very true that the Opposition might not agree in the details, but they had not dissented from policy enunciated. When the Coalition was in power the Upper Province returned its members to a party, but the hon. member for Kingston with his small band was taken in hand by the hon. member for Montreal East and the Government selected the patronage of the Upper Province gave that Province acts which it did not want and refused the acts which it did want.

Hon. Mr. CARTIER.—How?

Hon. Mr. BROWN said he was not going to preach what he did not believe. He deeply regretted that we had the same thing now, but not to the same extent. He knew the Hon. Mr. Dorion, and he thought to know him well, as he had sat with that hon. gentleman for years, and he could say that that gentleman was not the man to sit on the Ministerial Bench and to do that which was unjust to his own portion of the Province. (Oh, oh, from the Opposition.) The speaker proceeded to say that the hon. gentleman opposite might sneer, but he was well aware that the Hon. Mr. Dorion would be found true to his own section of the Province, and would force no measure down the throats of his own countrymen. (Hear, hear.)

Hon. Mr. CAUCHON observed that the hon. gentleman, in a speech he had once made, had enunciated sentiments different from those he now uttered.

Hon. Mr. BROWN replied that if the hon. member would only take the trouble to look up the paper in which the speech was reported, he would find that what he had stated then and what he had said now, were in perfect concord. What he had always contended for was this, that in his opinion it was not at all desirable that a Ministry should rule while in a majority in one section and a minority in the other; he considered that no Ministry ought to govern the country until they had tried every effort to get a majority in both sections. He should not like to see imposed on Lower Canada that which had been suffered so long in Upper Canada.—Here upon one side, was the Hon. Mr. Cartier and on the other the Hon. John S. Macdonald; the one had a majority in Lower Canada, and the other had a majority in Upper Canada. Now, the question was, which of these two gentlemen should prevail? He thought that until every effort had been exhausted by the hon. member for Cornwall, to obtain, a majority from both sections, that he would not be justified in governing the country. He never had any hesitation in enunciating this principle when his friends were on the other side of the House, and he had no hesitation now. The hon. member for Cornwall had the responsibility of knowing whether he had exhausted every effort to obtain a majority in both sections. (Applause and laughter.) He was very glad that the hon. gentleman opposite enjoyed themselves so much; but the hon. member for Montreal East when he represented Verchères was not so jocular when he (Hon. Mr. Brown) told him that he ought not to rule Upper Canada by a Lower Canadian majority. (Hear hear.) The hon. member for Montreal East said he could not do otherwise, he was tied to try it, but he never thought of doing so. He (Hon. Mr. Brown) knew what he would do if he were in the position of the hon. member for Cornwall. He would go to His Excellency and say—I am constituted by a majority of this Chamber as constitutional ruler of this country; I have a majority of this House; I am in a position to speak the views of the parliament of this country, but I do not think that on important measures to be submitted, I have a majority sufficient to carry me through. He (Hon. Mr. Brown) would then ask his Excellency for power to go to the House and state his position freely, frankly and honestly, and would obtain the power to reconstruct. He would then go to the gentlemen opposite, and would appeal to their patriotism, and see whether, in view of an Upper Canada majority on the Ministerial side of the House, they would not lend their assistance in forming a strong government. This would be a patriotic movement, and might prove effective. He hoped that his friends opposite were tired of crises for a general election would surely come if this thing were not done. (Hear, hear.) He stood here as an independent member—as a thoroughly independent member—(hear, hear)—and did he consider that the interests of the country would be advanced if the principles he advocated would be advanced tomorrow by the removal of this Administration, he should give his vote for that purpose without hesitation. But when he compared this Ministry with their predecessors—when he reflected on their purity of purpose—on the absence of all corruption in their Government, and they measures they proposed, and he challenged the hon. member for Kingston to put a finger on a single corrupt act. (Loud and continued cheers from both sides.) He made preference this Administration. The Government had submitted measures of a practical kind, tending greatly to the advancement of the country, and if he had to choose between them and any administration created by the hon. member for Montreal East, then he should not have the slightest hesitation in knowing what to do. (Hear, hear. The question for him was, how he might best do his duty to his country and carry out the principles he always professed, and he had no doubt he would justify his course to his conscience and his country by supporting the gentlemen on the Treasury benches. (Hear, hear.) It would rest the attention of the House to the effect that this system of carrying on the affairs of the country had produced. There had been constant jarring between Upper and Lower Canada, and numerous occasions of crises in the successive Governments. There was a crisis in June, 1854, and another in September of 1854; in 1855 there were two, and also in 1857. In July, 1858, there was a crisis when the Brown-Dorion Government was formed, and another in August, and another in December. Then there was the Robinson crisis, and the Carling crisis, and the Cauchon crisis. Then there was a great crisis in 1862, and another in 1863, and how many they should have in 1864 no one could tell.

Hon. Mr. CARTIER.—It is a chronic state. (Laughter.)

Hon. Mr. BROWN replied that undoubtedly they had been in a chronic state of crisis for eleven years past. No hon. gentlemen would presume to say that that was a desirable state of things to have continued. It was of the utmost importance that they should find some means of going on without having a break up so very often. (Hear, hear.)—Undoubtedly most of those crises had grown out of the unsettled state of this question. The object of so many changes had been to satisfy public opinion on this and kindred subjects. The question that would be put to him he supposed, would be—What remedy ought to be applied? They had, on the floor of the House, gentleman who were in favour of different schemes. The hon. member for Montreal West was in favour of a Confederation of the Provinces, and of a Monarchical Government. He did not know whether the hon member for Sherbrooke was in favor of a Confederation of all the Provinces, or of the Canadas alone.

Hon. Mr. GALT.—Of all the Provinces.

Hon. Mr. BROWN.—Then there were some in favour of a dissolution pure and simple, and same favored a legislative union of all the Provinces, and others were in favor of the Toronto Convention. (Laughter.—Well, hon. gentlemen might laugh, but there never was a fairer proposition broached, and he doubted if a more satisfactory one could ever be found. Then, there was another proposition, and that was to leave the constituencies precisely as they were at present, but to pass an Act authorizing each to elect an additional representative it possessed over say, forty thousand of a population and there would at once be sixty members. Perhaps, though he had his preference, he was prepared to accept that policy which, on a fair consideration by the House, should be found to be an adjustment, or an approach to a settlement, or which would be a considerable instalment of justice to Upper Canada. He had no doubt but that the Committee would be able to discover some basis upon which the Legislature could agree. His hon. friend from Richelieu had presented an amendment, proposing to go to England, but if the people of Lower Canada went there, the people of Upper Canada would go to.

FIRE AND LOSS OF LIFE.—A very melancholy affair took place in the village of Newcastle, in this county, on Saturday last, 12th instant, which resulted in the total destruction of the house and effects of Mr. Eli Gallop, on that place, as well as the loss of one of his family. It appears that Mr. Gallop was busying some pitch pine knots at the stove, and incautiously commenced stirring it, at the same time holding a lighted candle over the pan. The result was that it ignited. Mr. Gallop, in his hurry to extinguish the flame and having the element in his hand, he slipped, and the contents of the pan was dashed on his face and breast. It at once set fire to the house. In a bunk which was not far from the stove, there were four little children.—This caught fire, and two of the children were badly burned—one of them, a little girl about 11 years of age, died from the effects on Saturday morning, and the other is not expected to recover. Mrs. Gallop saved two of the children by carrying them out of the house. Mrs. Gallop is badly burned, and we are informed that she, with one of the children, would have perished in the flames had it not been for the noble heroism of Mr. Thomas Robinson, hotel keeper, who rushed through the flames into the burning building, and bore them out safely. Mr. Gallop is so badly injured that he is not expected to recover, and is now lying in a dying condition at Robinson's hotel. Mr. Gallop is a saddler, and has lost all his stock, together with his tools and household furniture. Mrs Gallop was doing a grocery business, and lost all, besides about $250 in money. The affair is about as heartrending a one as it has been our lot to chronicle.—*Georgetown Champion.*

☞ A curious trick of rifle shooting was performed in Paris the other day. A Swiss gentleman backed himself to take aim, with his carbine, then support it with his right arm, then with his left hand put his hat over the muzzle, and hit the center of the target. This he did three times, and 'landed' his money.

Huron Signal.

GODERICH, C. W., MARCH 24, 1864

THE MINISTERIAL CRISIS.

The following which we take from yesterday's *Globe* will give as clear an idea of the state of affairs in Quebec as can be expected until some definite point is reached:—

"The effort to strengthen the Administration among the representatives from Lower Canada is going on; and I have good authority for saying that the progress already made justifies the expectation that the movement will be crowned with success.

"Nothing definite with regard to the pending negotiations has publicly transpired; and I believe they are not yet sufficiently advanced to warrant the mention of any names.

"Numerous rumors in regard to the negotiations have been flying about here all day, but nearly all of them are mere *canards*. One story most industriously circulated, has been to the effect that there are dissensions in the Cabinet, and that two Ministers had actually resigned. There is no truth whatever in these statements. I have the best authority for saying that the members of the Cabinet are quite harmonious, and are acting with entire unanimity in the present movement. The only color for this story is in the fact that several of the Ministers have, in the most prompt and generous manner, expressed their readiness to place their portfolios at the command of their colleagues, in furtherance of the movement for reconstruction, and to give effect to the negotiations now going on for strengthening the Government among the Lower Canada members.

"Among the friends of the Ministry, the impression has prevailed very generally to day—and I suspect not without good foundation—that on Monday Government will ask an adjournment of the House for three weeks, so as to enable the work of reconstruction to be completed. This impression, however, is based on the supposition that the proposed new arrangements will be sufficiently advanced on Monday as to permit of their being then announced to the House.

"The Upper Canada supporters of the Government are calmly waiting the result of the negotiations now in progress for obtaining increased support in Lower Canada, in the hope and expectation that the new arrangements will be of such a character as to entitle them to their cordial approval and endorsement."

LAKE AND RAILWAY FREIGHT TRAFFIC.

Our respected contemporary of the Sarnia *Observer*, in his issue of the 18th inst., under the above heading, lays before his readers the pleasing intelligence that daily lines of propellers are to be established this spring between that port and Chicago, and then goes on to say that:—

"The Buffalo and Lake Huron Railway Company had a similar line in operation between Goderich and Chicago last summer; but we see by last week's *Signal* that there is to be no regular line of Propellers on that route this season. The cause assigned is, that an arrangement has been made with the Grand Trunk for a joint conveyance of passengers and freight between Sarnia and Buffalo, in opposition to the Great Western. The *Signal* says the Railway officials deny that such an arrangement has been made; but taking into account an announcement made in the Montreal *Witness* some weeks ago, that the Buffalo and Lake Huron Railway was to be brought into the meshes of the Grand Trunk, the *Signal* seems to have no doubt that such an arrangement has been made between the two Companies. Our contemporary admits, however, that the Buffalo and L. H. Co. lost thousands of dollars last season by the arrangement, but believes it was chiefly through the neglect of some of its agents at Buffalo, in sending through freight to Rochester instead of to proper destination, New York, and thinks "it looks like suicidal policy to throw away an established trade, simply because it did not prove remarkably remunerative. (That is, because the Company lost thousands of dollars by it!) for a particular year, and after a harbor, freight-house, elevator, and every other necessary appliance had been provided. It is a tacit acknowledgment that the line cannot be made to pay at all." If so, it is certainly unfair to blame the Company for discontinuing it. The *Signal* further says, that it is doubtful whether communication will be kept up between Goderich and Saginaw this season. Negotiations are going on which *may* result in the employment of a boat on that highly important line—important, if only for the immense amount of Salt alone, which would fill its way over it. The prospect is rather discouraging for Goderich, in the meantime, but may not turn out so bad as the *Signal* apprehends."

Our friend is scarcely ingenuous in his strictures. Had he given the *whole* of the article in question, as published in the *Signal*, it would have been evident that we acknowledged our inability to give the true cause for the change, and that our reference to the article of the *Witness* was by way of inference, no other solution being practicable to one not behind the curtain. Again, the whole tenor of our article was based upon the idea that if a line of propellers between Chicago and our Canadian Railways could be made to pay at all Goderich was the most favorable terminus, *simply because it supplied the most direct line to the East both by Lake and Rail*, which must be admitted, and if it is conceded that "thousands of dollars were lost to the Company through the incompetency of forwarding agents," it is only an argument for the employment of better men in future, not a reason why the line should be discontinued in disgust. Every business man is aware that no trade of this kind, involving the movement of vast quantities of freight, can be diverted from other channels, and rendered eminently successful in one or two years; nay, that in most cases a loss must be sustained for a season or two. Then, when ordinary difficulties are overcome, the tide turns and enterprise reaps its legitimate reward. There were indications of prosperity for the Goderich and Chicago line. The propellers laid down as much freight as the Railway, with the amount of rolling stock in its possession, could move, and the Saginaw line, even with a third-rate boat was doing first rate. We are glad to hear, however, that there will be an improvement in the latter this season. But there is another side to the question. If the line between Chicago, Goderich and Buffalo *did not pay*, how in the name of common-sense can the Sarnia arrangement be an improvement upon it? The distance by Lake is much greater, and any person glancing at the map of Upper Canada will see for himself that there is a great difference between the two lines, in so far as Railways are concerned, in favor of Goderich. Taking every practical view of the subject, it must be allowed that any attempt to establish such a line of propellers will fail, or else we must fall back to our former inference, that the *Buffalo and Lake Huron between Goderich and Stratford has fallen into the meshes of the Grand Trunk!* We hope events will prove that the carrying trade is lucrative, and that Mr. Fell may be able to make ample arrangements for sharing the trade of the West with the rival lines of the Province, by the time another season comes round.

POISONING CASE IN TUCKERSMITH

A MAN POISONED AND TWO PERSONS ARRESTED ON SUSPICION.

Coroner's Inquest.—Verdict against deceased's wife, with strong suspicion against the other prisoner. Both lodged in Goderich Gaol.

A CASE of poisoning has occurred in the generally peaceable township of Tuckersmith, which, to say the least, is surrounded with much mystery. We will give the case as succinctly as possible, without unnecessarily prejudicing the public mind against parties accused of crime. About two and a half miles from Harpurhey there lived in a shanty a laborer named Joseph Gallagher, his wife and two children, and a young man who had been boarding with them for a year or more, named Matthew Foster. It appears on inquiry that Gallagher was jealous of his wife and had on one or two occasions accused her of undue intimacy with Foster. Their life together was not, evidently, a very happy one. However that may be, Gallagher was in perfect health up to the morning of the 23rd of February last. On that fatal morning he got up early, kindled a fire, singing lustily as he did so, and made preparations for breakfast.—Previous to sitting down to table, it was proposed, (by whom we have not learned) and agreed to that Foster and Gallagher should take a *dose of salts* each, by way of appetiser. The salts were accordingly mixed in separate cups by Mrs. Gallagher, and Foster swallowed his first, but he threw them off his stomach or pretended to do so. Gallagher also swallowed his, but took sick at breakfast and went to the door, took cramps in his extremities and had to be lifted into bed, where he lingered in great pain until ten o'clock of the same morning, when he died, his only remark being "that he was a fool for taking the salts." It is mentioned as a curious circumstance that a man who was working within a few feet of the shanty in which the tragedy took place heard nothing of it by way of alarm or otherwise until some hours after Gallagher's death. When the fact of deceased's sudden death leaked out, an inquest was commenced by Dr. Coleman in Morton's hotel, Seaforth, (on the 24th Feb.) and has been going on up to the 18th of the present month.—A post-mortem examination of the body was made by Drs. Fitzsimmons of Egmondville and Smith of Seaforth, who testified that in their opinion death was caused by "blood poison," the appearances indicating the presence of *nux vomica* or strychnine. Mr. J. Bryden, constable, of Egmondville, was sent with the stomach to Prof. Crofts of Toronto, who reported that he had detected some strychnine in the contents of the stomach, but expected to find more in the tissues. His final report had not been received when the inquest closed. There were eighteen jurymen, Edward Cash, Esq., Harpurhey, foreman. After listening to an immense amount of evidence, more or less relevant, the jury returned a verdict of "wilful murder" against Mrs. Gallagher, with a strong suspicion of her having been aided and abetted by Matthew Foster. The two, who had been in close custody all the time, were brought up by express train and lodged in gaol on Saturday night by constables Moran and Brydon. Foster is described as a huge sixfooter, about 27 years of age, rather timid, having a treacherous bad memory. Mrs. Gallagher is a diminutive, emaciated, sunburned old woman, the last woman a young man could fancy. She has one son about 14 years of age, and another between 4 and 5. She is near accouchment; parting from her child was a most heartrending sight. They both declare their innocence and assert that deceased often threatened to take his own life. They made no attempt at any time to escape.

THE MAYORALTY NOMINATION

Took place in the Town Hall, on Saturday last. There was a very large attendance of parties interested; the magnificent gallery of the building, as well as the standing room below, being crowded with an eager throng. Perhaps it is ominous of the fate of the election that several awkward individuals fell half way through the floor of the gallery, damaging seriously the ornamental stucco forming the ceiling of a portion of our fine Town Hall. Such disgraceful conduct should be inquired into by a commission of inquiry. The momentous hour having arrived, the Clerk read the famous Mandamus, his warrant for holding the election, dated March 14th, and the notice calling the meeting. The work of nominating candidates then began with a solemnity befitting the occasion and worthy a Roman senate. We should have stated, however, that Mr. Gibbons, as Reeve, explained the course he had pursued, remarking that although he had grave doubts as to the legality of the proceedings, he had done all in his power to meet the requirements of the Mandamus.

Mr. A. Lefroy, seconded by Mr. A. M. Ross, proposed James Watson, Esq., as Mayor.

Mr. Amos Martin, seconded by Mr. M. Moran, nominated Christopher Crabb, Esq.

Mr. Crabb here entered a protest against the re-election of Mr. Watson on the ground of his being disqualified.

Mr. Horton proposed and Mr. Pollock seconded Hugh Johnstone, Esq., as a fit and proper person.

Mr. A. Smith seconded by Mr. T. McLennegban nominated Mr. Sinclair.—(Great laughter and applause.)

Mr. Sinclair, not to be beaten, proposed, and Mr. Hays seconded Mr. A. Smith. (Counter cheers, laughter and confusion.) It being considered a decidedly drawn game, the two last nominations were withdrawn by mutual consent.

Then came the speaking. Mr. Lefroy exhausted his laboratory of wit against Mr. Crabb and in favor of Mr. Watson, and Mr. Ross denounced Mr. Crabb in strong terms.

The mover and seconder of Mr. Crabb, not wishing to speak, Mr. Watson took the floor. He deprecated the manner in which he had been treated, comparing his persecutors with Shylocks and blood hounds, and ended by expressing his confidence that he would be returned by a large majority.

Mr. Crabb followed, retorting to the speech of Mr. Ross, and declaring the illegality of any re-election of Mr. Watson.

As we do not see that the interests of the public at all demand it, we refrain from publishing an extended report of the speeches.

A show of hands being called for resulted in favor of Mr. Watson by a large majority, and Mr. Crabb demanded a poll. The polling days were then named by the Clerk, viz., Monday and Tuesday following, and the meeting quietly dispersed.

THE NOMINATION.

To the Editor of the "Signal."

Dear Sir,—Opposition is said to be the life of trade, and I suppose in Election matters, every voter may be allowed to play some part in the programme. We have had our supplementary Nomination to fill the vacant office of Mayor, and from the number proposed as being duly qualified to fill the vacancy, Goderich has no cause to complain for want of material to work, but as properly speaking, owing to the withdrawal of some of the motions, Mr. Watson and Mr. Crabb are the only parties offering themselves. As to claims and qualifications of these gentlemen, the Electors of Goderich don't require to be told which to choose, that is left to themselves. I congratulate the two candidates for their good taste in leaving personalities aside as regards each other in the address at the Nomination.

I think it would have shown better taste had the proposers and seconders adopted a similar course, but this is a free country, and as they thought otherwise, be it so, on certain occasions it is customary that the first dignified personage to present themselves is the Clown, and who could but guffaw at what a clown says? when there is not much to bring forward, it may be necessary for diversion to the audience to provide a clown for the occasion, and why not, either in the "Hamlet, or the Baron's Hall." Let them praise their candidate to the skies, if he requires it, but not show that they are afraid of his opponent by stooping so low as to vent their spleen on account of some family quarrel. Silly Exhibition. It is amusing to see the attempt to make capital out of the Suretyship, just as if any one believed that it was on Mr. Fletcher's account personally that Mr. Watson's qualification was tested, how very fine and plausible to try to make it appear persecution for a kind act, that won't do, try again.

I am,
Dear Sir,
A VOTER.

Goderich, 19th March, 1864.

SUMMARY OF WAR NEWS.

It is expected that the commission on Foreign Affairs will take strong ground on the Mexican question. The Gold Bill has been passed. Gen. Grant, the new candidate for Richmond honors is expected to take the field in person, and to go in to win, but so did his predecessors. The rumors about Stuart's preparations for a raid have created quite a sensation. The daring general is located near Fredericksburg, where the Confederates are strengthening their position. A story is in circulation of a plan concocted for the purpose of nabbing old Abe. The Confederates are threatening Chattanooga.—It is stated via Philadelphia that Lee's encampment across the Rapidan was broken up on the 18th, and that he was marching in the direction of the Shenandoah valley. Firing had been heard in the direction of Dumfries. Never, perhaps, were the rumors of one kind or another more wild and contradictory, but we can gather sufficient to convince us that the Confederates are extremely active at all points, and that stirring events are not far distant. With reference to Mexico it is reported that the Emperor Maximilian is inclined to confer titles of nobility upon secessionists on an extensive scale. A mere straw indicates the direction of the wind.

EDINBURGH REVIEW, Leonard Scott & Co., N.Y., T. J. Moorhouse, Goderich. Contents: 1 Thermo-Dynamics. 2 Flavian Cæsars and the Antonines. 3 The Marquis de Dangeau and Duke de Saint Simon. 4 The Progress of India. 5—Jewish History. 7 The Negro Race in America. 8 Froude's History of England, Vols. V.—VIII. 9 Ireland.

TERMS.

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Convincing testimony.—Rev. Jno. Robie, Buffalo, N. Y., writes: "Mrs. S. A. Allen's World's Hair Restorer and Zylobalsamum are the best preparations I have ever known.—They have restored my gray hair to its original color." Sold by druggists everywhere. Depot, 198 Greenwich st., New York.

"BRITTANIA RULES THE WAVES."—It is a suggestive fact that 54 first-class steamers now running on the Atlantic Ocean, not one is owned in the United States. For years before the war, British steamers had been steadily winning the monopoly of steam commerce, and the outbreak of hostilities consummated their success.

Hurrah for Bould Kristy Kerlumbus.

BY BARNEY BRALLIGAN.

Och, Kristy Kerlumbis, but ye're the man
To charm the heart av a wild Irishman,
Wid yer langwidge so bould,
And yer inglish so pure, indepindint, complate,
Like the rap av a stick on a tithe procther's pate,
Jimmy's out in the cowld.

Go it me darlint boy while ye are young
Niver fear while yeve got sich a gift av the tung,
Give it till em strong.
Tell thim that ye and Lord broam agree
An' the juties belongin to maraltee
An ye'll not be far rong.

Av the lawyers, bad luck till thim, intherupt ye
Ye can shut thim up short and sharp *sint dee*
Ye're a match fur'em all.
But a word in yer ear, me dear, d'ye hear,
Don't go to kotin' eni skriptures fur feer
Ye be caut by Rumball.

An whin ye are maor be shure an' take care
Whin the lawyers are there ye're latin so rare
Ye will use frequentlee,
Siskler or Moor, Shade or Billy Haze
Ye'll nock into what we call *bellehase*
Wid yer *sine quee quee*.

An' whin ye're elected, as shure you will be,
Don't forgit till shake hans wid poor Barney B.
For widout any blarney
I've fath in the good sinse of "naburs an' frends"
That for Kristy they'll jine both harts an hands
An' throth an won't BARNEY.

Donik's Hotil, 17 march,
St. Pathrick's Day.

Town & Counties.

☞ The Schedule of Convictions will appear in our Weekly issue of the 31st inst.

☞ We would direct attention to the advertisement announcing Messrs. Smaill & Thomson's sale. Bargains may be expected.

☞ Moorhouse has received Godey for April. It is a splendid number, containing Spring Fashions, &c., in great profusion.

☞ The weather is still wintry, cold, blowy, snowy, and in fact as little like Spring as possible.

☞ Mr. Dickson will please accept our thanks for a full supply of valuable Parliamentary papers.

BRUCE REGISTRY OFFICE.—It will be seen by reference to another column that Mr. M'Lay has entered upon the duties of his office at Southampton, where letters connected with the same should be directed.

☞ Talk about hard times,—the sale held by Mr. Trueman on Saturday last, in Pridham's old stand, according to adv. in the *Signal*, was one of the best ever known in Goderich!

NEARLY A FIRE.—Mr. Platt's Flour Store, and the whole block in which it is situated, had a narrow escape in the latter part of last week. After those in charge of the store had left for the night the floor took fire about the stove, and but for the timely discovery of smoke issuing from the building by Mr. Henry Smith, the whole inflammable pile would have been consumed.

THE ELECTION commenced yesterday and is going on as we go to press. The degree of interest taken in it by the ratepayers may be inferred from the fact that in St. Patrick's Ward only *three* votes were recorded this forenoon, and the other wards are little better. Elections at this season appear to be pretty well "played out." The polls as we write stand Watson far ahead, Crabb next and Johnstone last. An effort, however, will probably be made to run Johnstone ahead of Crabb towards closing time. Two protests were fyled yesterday, one by Mr. Sinclair on the ground of the election being illegal, and another by Mr. Crabb against Mr. Johnstone, no poll having been demanded for him especially.

LATER:

The following is the state of the polls at the close:

	Watson.	Crabb.	Johnstone.
St. Patrick's	21	11	15
St. David's	31	15	11
St. Andrew's	34	6	17
St. George's	19	3	22
	105	35	65

Total of votes polled ..... 205.
do do at Jan. election ..... 428.
Difference ..... 223.

ACCIDENTS ASSURANCE.—We beg to draw the attention of our readers to the advertisement respecting assurance against accidents which will be found another column, accidents are constantly occurring, and every person is more or less exposed to them. So frequent is their occurrance in England, that it is estimated that one person in every twelve of the population meets with an accident every year. There are several Insurance Companies in England who devote their entire attention to accidents assurance. The Provident Life Assurance Company, of Toronto, of which Hon. John Hilyard Cameron, is the President has lately introduced this class of assurance into Canada and is meeting with great success. Those of our readers who are exposed to danger travelling or otherwise would do well to call upon John Haldan, Esq., the agent for Goderich, who will give them full particulars as to rates, &c.

BENEFITS OF ADVERTISING.—Nothing gives us more pleasure than to hear of the success of parties patronizing our advertising columns—and their name is Legion. During the past month or two we have witnessed numerous striking instances of the benefits derived from advertising in a widely-circulated journal. We have received many letters assuring us that persons advertising lands in the *Signal* have found good bargains. Auction sales so advertised are, we may say, universally successful, returning to the advertiser a hundred fold of the trifle expended in that magical fluid "Printer's ink," and even persons at a distance have been benefited. Only a few days ago a lady residing in Dundas recoved a valuable satchel through an advertisement in this paper, and a far