

TEMPERANCE ITEMS.

By the Canada Temperance Advocate we learn several items of importance and interest to the Temperance community. One correspondent writing from Port Stanley to that journal, says: "The cause is advancing here; the Division of the Sons which was organized about 18 months ago, has now some 60 regular contributing members. There is also a Section of Cadets numbering about thirty members, in good working order."

From Port Colborne another correspondent writes: "I would inform you that a Lodge of Good Templars was opened here on the 1st of September last, which now numbers 42 members, in good standing. The Washingtonians are still holding their meetings, and endeavoring to revive the cause."

At South Stukely a Temperance society exists, started about a year ago and now has over 150 names on its pledge, besides some 80 or 70 taken off to form another society in Bolton adjoining.

In McKillop and neighborhood there are several Temperance organizations. In the village of Seaford there is a Lodge of Good Templars composed of about 40 members. There is also a strong Total Abstinence Society in McKillop, consisting of 150 members. At one time there were about 60 members belonging to the Grey Total Abstinence Society; the number has since fluctuated, there are yet about 50 staunch testifiers, "true as steel."

From Port Stanley a correspondent writes: "Our Total Abstinence Society, which, when I last wrote numbered 157, has now reached 176."

The Associate-Reformed Presbyterian Synod of the South, (U. S.) at its last Session adopted the following resolutions:—1. That the manufacture and sale of ardent spirits as a beverage, are vocations demoralizing in their nature and tendency, and inconsistent with Christian practice and duty. 2. That the use of ardent spirits as a beverage, partakes of the guilt of the manufacture and sale, and is inconsistent with Christian practice and duty."

In six months the order of Sons of Temperance of North Carolina has very nearly doubled itself. Twenty-six new Divisions had been chartered, and a number of suspended ones revived.

We are informed that 32 new Temples of the I. O. of G. T. have been instituted in Canada since the Annual Session of the Grand Temple held in October last. The probability now is that this Grand Temple will be entitled to four representatives at the Nashville Session of the Right Grand Temple in May next.

SARNA.—We are glad to observe, that the Hon. Malcolm Cameron is still actively engaged in forwarding the cause of Total Abstinence. On the evening of the 26th ult., the old Temperance Society in Sarna was revived, and 163 names admitted to the Constitution. In this meeting, Mr. Cameron took an active and prominent part.—Temp. Advocate.

"CANADA, OUR HOME."—The growth of Minnesota in a few years may be wonderful, but it is generally admitted that during the last twenty years Upper Canada has progressed as rapidly as could reasonably be expected. Indeed a much more rapid growth could hardly be regarded as 'healthy.' The Canadian should think twice before he decides to expatriate himself to become a pioneer in Minnesota. If Canadians living in the older settled portions of Canada desire to forego the comforts of civilization for the sake of trying their luck as pioneers, they can go to the western portion of their own country. There are lands in Canada that in point of fertility equal anything in America. The great Saskatchewan territory will ere long be opened up for settlement, and that, while in point of soil and climate it offers far advantages to the settler, has the additional merit that in all probability it will one day be intersected by the great inter-oceanic railway.—Iroquois Chief.

THE BANKRUPT LAWS.

Each mail brings its additional proof that the public mind in Upper Canada is settled as to the desirability of the enactment of a Bankrupt Law. Considerable discouragement has however, been felt at the announcement—unofficial thought be—that the Government does not intend to apply itself to the task of introducing such a measure during this session. The Hamilton Advertiser, which usually expresses sound opinions on this and kindred subjects, while referring to the rumor says—"We deeply regret the fact, if indeed it can be true; for how Canada shall be expected to make solid progress under such a commercial code as at present exists, is more than we can understand. But with another good harvest and a good stringent Bankrupt Law for honest men, by this time next year, the Upper Province would be well out of the swamp, and again on the road to prosperity. Without them, how will it be!"—Free Press.

NOTICE TO CORRESPONDENTS.

Carrie's Poetry mislaid until too late for this insertion; we shall try to remember it next week.

A Chapter for Old Bachelors by "Nisa" [prose] next week.

Kindness, by "H. M." in the next issue.

The Morpeth Gleaner.

Not Bound to Sign or Speak According to the Dictates of any Master.—HORACE

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 1860.

It is many years since the people of this country awaited the meeting of Parliament with more interest than they do now; the public mind has also for a considerable length of time been in a state of legislation, more especially at Canada West.

From the Press, no matter what may be its politics, come demands for changes and reforms, of an importance hitherto unknown in a Province like this. A change in the present Union—a new Bankrupt Bill—a Homestead Exemption Bill—a Constitution for the Province, and a decrease of the Public Expenditure, are among those that are the most prominent before the people.

The Union will of course remain as it is for some time to come yet; but let us hope that the coming Session will not be allowed to pass through without some improvement in our present law relating to Debtor and Creditor. This law, as it now is, fails to secure either party. If the debtor is dishonest, and possessed of ordinary shrewdness, he can set his creditors at defiance. If he is honest, and makes a full surrender of all his property, he and his family are still at the mercy of the law; ruin, and that inevitable, is too often their doom.

Hence, the law as it now stands offers indirectly a reward to dishonesty; it says in effect to the debtor, Fraud is the only means by which you can protect yourself and family. You dare not be honest, if you would. In connection with the above law as we have seen it amended, is another of equal importance, namely a Homestead Exemption Bill, a Bill to protect the family, and at the cost of no one. Where is there a mother whose heart would not be lighter: or a father whose arm would not be stronger, were there such a law on our Statute Book?

A Bill that would enable them to set aside some little spot on God's green earth, that could be made a home sure and steadfast, against the ills of declining age; a spot that would protect the sorrowing mother and helpless childhood from the storms of life. How many families would be saved from ruin; how much property kept from being squandered in law and drink; how many homes now mere shelters would become cheerful both to the eye and the heart. A law like this protects the homes of other countries; why may it not protect ours? Our fathers are not as industrious; our mothers just as loving, and their sons just as dutiful! the Canadian arm is as strong, and the heart as tender as they are in any other land. Still it is a lamentable fact that many of our best citizens are leaving the land of their birth and the homes of their fathers, to become strangers in a land that offers them a protection that is denied them at home.

THE "INSURRECTION" AT CHATHAM.

A certain class of papers in the U. S. have been endeavoring to make political capital out of the disturbance which occurred in Chatham between the whites and blacks. One might have imagined after reading some of those accounts, that not only Chatham, but Canada itself would shortly be under the rule of the colored people. Exaggerated accounts have been published, upon unsubstantiated evidence, calculated to mislead the public mind, and give our neighbors a wrong idea of affairs in this country. The Buffalo Courier thus speaks in reply to the Detroit Free Press, upon an article on this subject:—

"The Press represented the African Canadian population as looming up darker and more threatening than thunder-clouds against the pale faced minorities of Chatham and other localities in the Province. Lo! now it

is discovered that the whole story of negro disturbance in the sober town named, sprang out of a sanguinary battle, with fists, between a white boy and a black one, at one of the public schools!

Although this is not exactly the state of the proceedings, yet it will serve to shew that all that is said in the States against Canada is not believed even by the American people. The correct state of affairs seems to be as follows: The Board of School Trustees of Chatham, having an eye to "economy," noticing the decrease in the number of pupils attending the colored schools, one of the schools was closed, and all the colored children directed to attend the one school, which was presided over by a white teacher. Some of the colored people objected to this arrangement, and two of them went to the public school (white) with their children, from which they were expelled, and referred to the Trustees for explanation. The parties then went away without further disturbance. We are indebted to the Planet for a considerable portion of the above information, who also says that there were no other parties present than those just named.

FARMING IN ILLINOIS.

A friend of ours (Col. Prince) received a letter the other day from Mr. Jesse Zimmerman, formerly of Loward Cottage, Talbot Street, near this place, whose farm here was something over 130 acres. It will be remembered that Mr. Z. sold his farm to Mr. Massee, whose son married Miss Zimmerman, and Mr. Z. invested the proceeds in Illinois, not far from Rockford. The Col. informs us that last harvest Mr. Z. had four thousand five hundred bushels of excellent wheat; and 75 acres of first rate Corn; and he has now 350 acres all ready for Spring Wheat! Wheat is worth 96 cents per bushel on the farm. Something like farming this! Mr. Zimmerman writes that the country is as healthy as this, and that "he made a good change" when he went there. The letter to the Col. was accompanied by a box containing a present of a brace of magnificent Grouse, (prairie chickens, called there,) and game of all sorts is represented to be abundant there. We wish him every success in his farming undertaking.

FIRE AT LAWRENCE, MICH.—We have not seen an account of the following fire, in any of our exchange papers, and we therefore publish it as taken from private information received by Mr. Heth, of this village. Lawrence is a village of about the size of Morpeth, on the Michigan Central Road:—A fire broke out in Chadwick's store on Christmas eve, and in its mad career laid in ruins both of C's stores, Dr. Rowe's store, Coon's cabinet shop, the Post Office, Potter's shoe shop, Phillips' grocery, and Dr. Montfort's building, occupied by N. Phelps as an oyster saloon. The contents of the buildings were mostly saved.

THE "MORPETH GLEANER."—The above is the title of a neatly printed sheet, which hails from Morpeth. The Gleaner is of Conservative principles, and is about the size of the Warden. We wish our cotemporary success. Thanks for your kind wishes to us, friend (Om'cree) Warden; but we were not aware that we had given occasion for any one to accuse us of being either Conservative or Reformers. We profess to be strictly independent, acting in such a manner as shall seem right to us, without reference to party ties.

THANKS.—We would express our thanks to Mr. R. Harrison for the present of a nice lot of very large Apples three of which weighed two pounds and five ounces. Mr. H. informs us that it is but four years since the trees on which the fruit grew were removed from the nursery.

Our readers will remember the notice in the last Gleaner, of a man in St. Catharines having his "head taken off to save his life." We have since learned that the article in question was made to read in that way by a typographical error.—It should have been—"hand, taken off." Types are queer things, aren't they?

We have been informed through a private source, that since the adoption of the Free School system in Chatham, a few weeks since, about 60 additional pupils have attended the common school there.

COMMUNICATION.

To the Editor of the Morpeth Gleaner.

DEAR SIR:— Your notice of 'the Hunt' at my Rond Eau Point, (which I observe in last week's issue) might induce people to imagine that the hunt was ad libitum on the part of the sportsmen, and that the Point is open to any person who chooses to go there. I shall feel obliged to you to disabuse the public mind of such impressions, if such happen to exist. I am not like "the dog in the manger," who refuses that pleasure to others which time and circumstances will not admit of my participating in; and, therefore, as the sporting season is drawing to a close, I requested my friend, John Hartwick, to invite as many as he pleased to "drive" and hunt the Point, and kill what they liked for one day. But it must be understood that I preserve the Point and that anybody trespassing there without my leave (conveyed through Mr. Hartwick) will be subject to actions at law, as the proceedings of the Court of Queen's Bench, at the next Chatham Assizes will abundantly testify against, at least, one old offender, who imagines he can do as he pleases with the property and exclusive rights of others. You are welcome to make any use of this letter you please. I remain, dear Sir, Yours very truly, JOHN PRINCE. The Park Farm, Jan. 30, 1860.

C. COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS.

Condensed from the Planet's Report. Second Day, Jan. 18, 1860.

Letters were read by the Warden from R. Gibbons, Esq., Warden of the County of Huron and Bruce, transmitting a report of the committee appointed to report on the advisability of petitioning the Legislature to amend the Assessment Law.

From E. A. Meredith, Secretary to the Board of Inspectors of Prisons &c., making the intention of the Inspectors to visit the County in Feb'ry or March. From the Provincial Secretary, acknowledging the receipt of two petitions which were transferred to the Crown Lands Department.

Reports from the Commissioner of Crown Lands, stating that the Government has no intention to oppress settlers on the Crown Lands, but giving them to pay up as much as they can, and time will be given for the balance, and procure titles to the lands they occupy.

Messrs. Johnston, Ogaltee, Cross, McMichael, and White, appointed Committee on public Buildings. Messrs. White, Houston, Foote, See, McMichael, Evans, and Munro, Committee on Finance. James Hart and Dr. Rolls, to be Aitors.

The sum of \$11.36 was ordered to be refunded to Mr. Prince, having been paid by him in error for the redemption of part of lot No. 13 Town of Chatham. The Warden read the Treasurer's Report for the year 1859, showing a surplus on hand of above \$700 at the end of the year. Also read the report of the Chatham Camden Bank Road Company. The Council then adjourned.

Third Day, Jan. 19th, 1860. By-Law for appointing County Officers was read a first time. Committees were appointed to report upon the communication from the Warden of Huron and Bruce, and to revise the Rules of Order of the County Council.

Rev. Dr. Sandys and Mr. H. D. [names] were appointed members of the Board of School Trustees. Messrs. Boutts, Coatsworth, Houston and Wilson appointed Committee on Lands and Bridges. A By-Law to establish a ferry at Esden was read a first time. A Communication was read from Froom Talfourd, Esq. Commissioner of Indian Affairs, stating that his Excellency the Governor General, would sustain an appropriation from the Indian funds of one-third of the estimated cost of the bridge, and hoping the Council might feel it right to appropriate from the County funds sufficient to complete the Bridge.

Fourth Day, Jan. 20, 1860. Resolved.—That the Solicitor be directed to lay forthwith copies of the notices served on the Treasurer, as Bill filed in Chancery by the Hon. Prince, against the Corporation of Chatham, and the answer of the Corporation thereto, and the date of filing the same.

Mr. C. Prissa teacher of Deaf and dumb Mutes in Raleigh, applied for aid, and \$100 was given him. Mr. Payne was instructed to purchase clothing for Sarah Nevills, a 60 additional pupils have attended the common school there.

R. Smith's account for furniture for County Clerk's Office referred to Com. on Finance.

The Warden was authorized to advertise for tenders for renting the tolls on the Kent & Tecumseh Bridges. Resolved.—upon motion of Mr. Munro seconded by Mr. Stone, that this Council do grant a sum equal to one-fourth of the cost of the Bridge in addition to the contribution before mentioned, it being understood that such one fourth shall not exceed the sum of \$1,000.

THE GREAT EASTERN.

On the 14th Dec. a paper on the Great Eastern steamship was read by Mr. W. Hawes before the London Society of Arts, of which the following is a portion:—

"This ship," he said, "was never intended to go to a cold climate; she was built for the Indian trade; she is not calculated for a voyage to America, and I think it is to be very much regretted that the concessions to other lines, and perhaps the desire of extending this great work to our transatlantic friends, should have been allowed to delay her departure on the voyage for which alone commercial results to the Company can be realized. The ship has been looked upon too much as a sight, and far too little as a great commercial machine, by the proper use of which alone can profits be made. It is clear that one great element of commercial success is to be found in not allowing this great capital to be idle in port—another in avoiding as much as possible, the dangers of passing to and from any coast; whereas, by sending her to America, the delays in port must be tenfold her time on the voyage; indeed, so long that smaller steamers will fill with passengers and cargo, and make the passage while she is loading, if indeed she will ever be loaded there; the whole object of the enterprise will thus be defeated, capital will be uselessly paid. Then, again, as to the risks incidental to the voyage. We all know how comparatively small they are in a well-found ship, when once at sea; and most all are equally well aware of the risks in approaching the English and American shores, of fogs and ice incidental to the vicinity of the one, and the dangers of our rocky coast and narrow seas. I have never been able to see why the Directors determined to send the ship even one voyage to America, or to spend the large sum they have done in fittings, before the ship and machinery had been tried, and the speed of 15 or 16 knots per hour, which no doubt will be accomplished, had been proved to the satisfaction of the world. I have always maintained that, as soon as she was launched, and the machinery completed, by which I mean everything required for her safe navigation, coal and ballast should have been shipped and a voyage of 1,000 or 2,000 miles performed, with or without her masters. If that trial had been successful, money would have been easily raised to finish her, any style the Directors might have chosen; if a failure, the shareholders would have saved the £100,000 spent in fittings and ornament."

MISCELLANEOUS.

Lake Erie has fallen two feet since April last. The total indebtedness of Indiana is \$10,285,855 57. The first jury ever empanelled was in England, in 970. Important discoveries of gold, platinum and tin have been discovered in Missouri.

During the present century the year will end on Saturday in 1854, '70, '81, '87, '92, and '93. Eight miles of a horse railroad are in the process of construction in Detroit, Mich. The iron exported from the Lake Superior mines during the past season, is estimated at \$402,000.

The London Times recommends the expenditure of fifty million dollars in the defences for the coast of England. In the Pike's Peak regions, fresh delicacies as chickens bring \$4 a pair, eggs \$2 per dozen, and sweet potatoes 45 cents a pot. Three States have abolished the death penalty, viz.: Michigan in 1846 Rhode Island in 1852, and Wisconsin in 1853.

The use of the decimal system as regards measures of length, is to be obligatory in Portugal from the 1st of January next. The Viceroy of Egypt is as extravagant as a Sultan. He had a royal railway carriage built at Springfield, Mass., which cost \$10,000. A stream of salt water has been found at the Montezuma salt works which yields 62 per cent. The yield at Syracuse is 63 per cent.

The Messrs. McKay whose mills at Ottawa were recently destroyed by fire, after receiving their insurance, will be losers to the amount of \$30,000. The Lieut. Governor of Nova Scotia after a full official investigation has relieved the inhabitants of Marie Joseph of the imputation of having committed a cowardly and outrageous robbery upon the wrecked passengers of the steamer Indiana.

Mr. Crinklaw, Treasurer of the Township of Westminster (an account of whose sudden disappearance we gave in the last Gleaner) has turned up in the land of Canadian refugees, one report says with the Township money, and another says not, but that he will soon return home.

During the past week, says the Call Reporter, several Indians have returned from their hunting expeditions to "the bush" and in general have expressed themselves well satisfied with the result of their labors. One party of three obtained 30 deer in ten days. Venison brings about \$6 per hundred in our town. It is understood that the trial of George Vermette, charged with murder in the Quebec suburbs, on the 17th of August last, will be proceeded with this week. It will doubtless be remembered by our readers that the Coroner's jury returned a verdict of manslaughter against the prisoner, but the Grand Jury have returned a true bill for wilful murder.—Free Press.

A man named Neil McLellan died in Dundas last week says the Dundas Banner at the extraordinary old age of one hundred and seven. He was a native of Invernesshire, Scotland, where he resided until he emigrated to Canada in 1851.—Since that time he has lived in Dundas, and until within a few months of his decease, he was able to walk about the town.

We have been requested to contradict the statement which appeared in the columns of a cotemporary yesterday, to the effect that the failure of Messrs. Mills, Mattice & Co., had been announced. We were aware that these firms had suspended; but as there exists a strong probability that they will be enabled to continue their business as heretofore, it is much to be regretted that the publication to which these remarks gave rise should have been made.—Montreal Gazette.

NEWS ITEMS.

Condensed and Prepared for the Gleaner

A young man was accidentally shot while out hunting near Mount Clemens, Michigan.

T. Chisholm Livingston, of the Town of Chatham, has been appointed a Notary Public in U. C.

The Black River and Utica Railroad, N. Y., will be sold at auction on the 21st March next.

The steamship Baltic arrived at New York on the 24th ult., from Aspinwall, with \$1,760,000 in specie.

The body of a German, a resident of Port Sarnia was found in the ice at Port Huron a few days since.

Another man was seen to fall through the ice near the same place, and was carried by the current under the ice, out of reach of assistance.

"Secretary Reale," of John Brown's Cabinet, (of Harper's Ferry) is to publish a book about the proceedings connected with the insurrection.

The grist mills of New Edinburgh, near Ottawa, have been destroyed by fire. Loss about \$60,000; insured for \$29,000.

A bill has been passed by the Washington Legislature appropriating \$150,000 to pay the expenses of the Harper's Ferry insurrection.

The Watertown Mill, owned by W. P. Holland, was destroyed by fire on the 24th ult. The mill contained three thousand bushels wheat, and a quantity of flour.

Williamson, the Detroit robber, surrendered himself to the Authorities at Detroit, on the 23rd inst. He will very likely be soon at large again, as the principal witness against him cannot be found!

A lady named Mrs. Bulger, on the 22d. ult., jumped off the Suspension Bridge, and was drowned. Temporary insanity, in consequence of the death of a sister and child, is the cause assigned for the deed.

The Grand Trunk continues to improve in its traffic receipts. The returns for the week ending Jan. 14th, 1860, amounts to \$52,336 25c. being an increase on the same week of the previous year of near \$20,000!

A union prayer meeting [the second] was held in London on the 18th, at which about 500 people were assembled; and from the whole tenor of the exercises it would appear that a good work is progressing there.

A statement has been put forth respecting the operations of a great government business men of New York, to the effect that the annual net earnings of each of the street railroads exceeds the entire cost of laying down the track.

Governor Douglas has declared his purpose of extending over the whole of British Columbia the liberal land sales already in vogue in Vancouver's Island, under which agricultural lands may be had for \$1 25cts per acre, with liberal credits.

The Committee of relief for the Lawrence sufferers announce that so liberal have been the contributions of money and clothing from every quarter, that no more assistance than that already pledged will be needed to provide for the sufferers liberally.

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