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AT THE END OF THE YEAR.

VOLUME V.

GODERICH, COUNTY OF HURON, (C. W.) THURSDAY, FEB. 12, 1852.

NUMBER III.

### MINUTES

Of the Proceedings of the Municipal Council for the County of Huron, Perth and Bruce, holden at the Huron Hotel, Goderich on the 29th day of December 1851, pursuant to adjournment from the 2nd July, 1851.

19 Being an account for work at New Maidland Bridge, certified by County Surveyor as follows:  
A. Thomas Campbell four days, 3s. 9d. per day £0 15 0  
B. Adam McVicar 53 days at 3s. 9d. £23 8 11  
By cash received 0 5 0  
18 8 11  
C. George Campbell 34 days at 7s. 6d. £23 11 3  
D. James Sturgeon, 19 days at 3s. 9d. 5 15 0  
Do 23 days at 5s. 9 6 3  
E. John Campbell 35 days at 3s. 9d. 16 11 6  
By cash received 2 10 0  
14 6 11

Your Committee would recommend that the Auditors be directed to examine carefully into these accounts, and if found correct to be paid.

20 Account of Hugh Scobie for Stationery for Treasurer's Office, £6 2 4. To be paid when certified by County Treasurer and Audited.

21 Account of J. Graham, Stationery for County Clerk's Office, £4 8 1, certified by County Clerk. The same as No. 20.

22 Amount of Balance of account H. Towell, £3 15 7. Your Committee have no means by which to ascertain whether or not this account is correct, but would recommend that the Auditors be directed to examine the same carefully, and the amount justly due to be paid.

23 Account of Jaffray and Son for Advertising £11 6 6. This account appears to be 6s. 6d. more than the charge of the Huron Signal for performing the same work. We would recommend that the Treasurer do get the same rectified at the time of payment.

24 Account (sudden breach) of James Barge £5 17 6, for work done on Bayfield Bridge, certified by Dr. Cole, we recommend to be paid when audited.

25 Account (sudden breach) of William Graham £4 15, for work done on Port Albert road, certified by Mr. Girvin, the same delivrance as No. 24. Also account of George Barrows (sudden breach) for £1 15, for work done on said road, certified by Mr. Girvin, same as above.

26 Accounts certified by Mr. Girvin, for work done on line of road between Ashfield and Wawanosh £18 13, same delivrance as No. 24.

27 Account (sudden breach) of Wm. Moore £1 10, for work done on Black Creek Bridge, certified by Mr. Gourlay, same as No. 24.

28 Account of Samuel Rabb £10, for building a Bridge over Trout Creek, Zora Road (sudden breach), certified by Mr. Monteith, same as No. 24.

29 Account (sudden breach) of Wm. Moore £2 10, for repairing road between Ellice and Downie, certified by Mr. Smith, same as No. 24.

30 Account (sudden breach) of Robert McDowell £2 10 for repairing Bridge on Stratford and St. Mary's road, certified by Mr. Smith, same as No. 24.

31 Account (sudden breach) of John Keilly, £4 for building a Bridge on road from Stratford to St. Mary's, certified by Mr. Smith, same as No. 24.

32 Petition of Jane Naira as Teacher in Kincardine. Your committee beg leave to say that this Petition has given rise to various considerations which makes it doubtful whether or not the Council can exercise any jurisdiction in this matter. In the first place it is said that the assessed taxes in Kincardine cannot be collected as the inhabitants of that Township repudiate the By-Law of the Late Huron District Council by which that Township was united to Ashfield and Wawanosh, and if they are correct in doing so, then that Township can have no legal connection with this Municipality, and we would have no right to interfere in the matter of the Petition.

Second, if there is no Township Municipality acknowledged, there is no legally laid out School Section, and can have no claim for school moneys whether arising from the Government Grant or from Assessments.

Until those questions are settled, we would recommend that the County Treasurer be instructed not to pay the order referred to by Petitioner.

33 Letter of Arthur Acland, Esquire, Chairman of the Board of Public Instruction, asking for an advance of £20. Your Committee are of opinion that it would be very improper, and by establishing a precedent, might lead to abuses of a serious nature if orders for money were given by the Council without having accounts rendered and properly certified, your Committee therefore recommend that the request be not complied with.

34 Account of A. W. Otter, for delivery of Assessment Rolls in 1850. Your Committee are of opinion that an ample amount has been already paid for this purpose.

35 Motion of Mr. Rath as to arrears of taxes on lands in Logan and Ellice. Mr. Jones being before the Committee states that he can give no positive answer, until the lands are examined.

41 and 42 Petition of Archibald McVoy praying for a grant of money on Town-line between Hay and Stanley.

Motion of Dr. Cole, for the sum of £30 to be granted for the above purpose. Your Committee cannot recommend any apportionment on this line at this late period of the year.

43 Petition of James Gordon, and William Rattbury praying to be permitted to draw a balance of £237 4s. 10d. cannot be entertained as the Council have no authority in the matter.

44 Petition of Wm. Story praying for extension of time to finish the Gaol roof, and also for an advance of £150 18s. 9d. Your Committee recommend that the time for completing the roof be extended to the 1st day of April next, and that the sum of £120 be advanced in part payment.

45 Account of James Hunter for work done on Bridge on Stratford and St. Mary's road 13s, your Committee recommend to be paid out of fund for sudden breaches.

46 Account of Andrew Helmer, Esq., for work done on the Bridge opposite No. 4, Huron Road North Easthope, £4, certified by Mr. Hamilton (sudden breach) to be paid.

47 Account of Francis Fishleigh for covering 308 rods of crossway on the Mitchell road £67 7s, certified by County Surveyor. To be paid when audited.

48 Account of Wm. Longworth for work on Carron Brook Bridge £2 10, (sudden breach) certified by Mr. Donkin. To be paid when audited.

49 Account of John Rabb for work at Whirl Creek Bridge £5 15, (sudden breach), certified by Mr. Hill. The same delivrance as No. 48.

50 Account of Thomas McQueen for printing &c., amounting to £18 9s. To be paid when audited.

51 Account of Hilary Horton for building Bridges on road from Goderich to Port Albert £6, certified by Mr. Anand.

Delivrance same as above, (sudden breaches.)  
52 Account of John Buchanan for building Bridge on road from Goderich to Ashfield amounting to £1, (sudden breach), certified by Mr. Anand. Delivrance as above.

53 Account of John Bugler 12s 6d, (sudden breach), certified by Mr. Hays. Delivrance as above.

54 Account of Stephen Downie for work on Silver Creek Bridge £2 10, (sudden breach), certified by Mr. Hays. The same delivrance as above.

56 Account of Joseph Fitzhery for work at Bridge on Carron Brook £4 10, certified by County Surveyor. To be paid.

57 Account of Wm. Story for pipes furnished the County Gaol £1 16 4, certified by County Surveyor. To be paid when audited.

58 Account of McDonald and others assisting County Surveyor in survey and taking levels on Huron and London Roads amounting to £41 17 6, certified by County Surveyor. We recommend to be paid when audited.

59 Account of Stationery and postage County Surveyor's Office, £2 3 9, certified by County Surveyor. The same as No. 58.

61 Motion of Mr. Girvin, That the Assessor and Collector of the County of Bruce be paid out of County Funds. Your Committee consider that Assessors and Collectors are Township officers, that therefore the County Council has nothing to do with the affair.

66 Motion of Mr. Rath relative to certificates of past collectors on arrears of taxes. Your Committee would recommend that the Council do not interfere in the matter.

68 Motion of Mr. Anand for the sum of two pounds on Bridge Hill, Goderich. This motion we recommend not to be sustained as the Bridge is now taken away.

69 County Surveyor's Schedule of works completed, in which it appears that works have been completed under the Canada Company's Improvement Fund to the amount of £472 11s. 8d. We recommend that the necessary steps be taken to have these sums finally settled with the parties concerned.

70 Motion of Mr. Wallace relative to Mr. Bignal's defalcation. Your Committee would recommend that the Clerk of the Council do write to the sureties of Mr. Bignal, late Superintendent of Education, intimating that payment of the amount for which they are liable, will be required forthwith.

Motion of Mr. Girvin, that the St. concession of Colborne be included in the By-Law on (sudden breaches). Your committee cannot recommend that the motion be entertained.

74 Letter of County Sheriff to Warden, on amount due relative to the new Jury Law. Delivrance applicable to this is given in number 24.

75 Petition of J. G. Kirk, County Surveyor, as to salary. Your Committee taking into consideration the onerous duties performed by the County Surveyor, and great expense that he has been in taking levels, &c., of the two leading roads &c., would recommend that he do receive £120 as his remuneration for the current year 1851.

76 Mr. Wallace on taxation in the Town of Goderich. Your Committee cannot at present enter into the merits of this question but would recommend that the matter be taken into consideration at the next meeting of the Council, and that in the meantime, the authorities of the Town ought to have such calculations made, as will facilitate its settlement.

73 Letter of T. M. Jones, Esquire, to County Clerk on arrears of taxes. Mr. Jones has been before the Committee, and stated that he would on next Monday commence paying the arrears due on lands held by lessees in the several Townships according as the schedule can be made out. Your Committee would recommend that the Treasurer be instructed to send an abstract of all such taxes so paid by the Canada Company to the respective Township Clerks as soon as practicable after the same is paid in order that the same may be deducted from the individuals charged therewith.

77 Motion of Mr. Guest as to the Councils assuming a Bridge at St. Mary's, Blandford. Your Committee cannot recommend this motion be complied with.

78 Account of Local Superintendent of Education of No. 2, for postages and Stationery 15s. to be paid when audited. Your Committee would recommend that all stationery required by County officers should be furnished by the County Clerk in future.

79 Account of Local Superintendent of Education No. 3, for postages and Stationery £0 15s. The same as No. 78.

80 Account of Benjamin Persons Stationery £2 9s, certified by George Fraser, late County Auditor. The same as above.

85 Appears to be an account of work done at New Maidland Bridge. Your Committee would recommend to be paid.

84 Account of Benjamin Miller for work done at New Maidland Bridge £78 1s 3d, certified by County Surveyor to be paid when audited.

85 Account of Thomas Dancy, £2 10s., for work done at Benjamin Miller's Bridge, certified by County Surveyor. Same as above.

86 Account of David Moore, £23 15 10 for Blackstock work done at New Maidland Bridge, certified by County Surveyor. Same as above.

Your Committee beg leave to suggest the propriety of the County Surveyor calling on two at least of the Town Assessors to assist him in the letting of any contract, the estimated expense of which shall be over £20.

Your Committee would beg leave to direct the attention of the Council to 39th section of the assessment law, which enacts that it shall be the duty of the Commissioner of Crown Lands within 30 days after the 1st of January of each and every year to transmit to each and every County Treasurer, a list of all the Lands granted or leased during the preceding year &c.

As your Committee are not aware that our County Treasurers has been furnished with any such list during the year 1851, and as it is a matter of great importance to these Counties that such list be furnished, the Treasurer be instructed to take the necessary steps to have lists of all the Government lands granted or leased up to the 31st of December last, that has not been already furnished, and when received that he furnish the respective Township Clerks as said section directs. All which is respectfully submitted by

JOHN HOLMES, Chairman.  
Committee Room, Jan. 1st 1852.

### REPORT

Of Select Committee on Roads and Bridges.

MEMBERS OF COMMITTEE.—Messrs. Donkin, Lamb, Gole, Hill and Rath.

Your Committee having examined the documents submitted them, beg leave to report as follows:—

60 Being the Surveyors Report.

Exception being taken to that portion of the Report which refers to the route recommended to be followed with Gravel Road at the Sable Hill. Your Committee recommend that the Surveyor reconsider the route, and decide according to his own discretion.

### Literature.

#### LIFE IN THE DESERT. OR HOW A PANTHER FELL IN LOVE WITH A FRENCH SOLDIER.

During the enterprising expedition into Upper Egypt, by General Desaix, a provincial soldier fell into the power of a tribe of Arabs, called Mungabans, and was thence carried into the desert, beyond the cataract of the Nile. In order to place a safe distance between themselves and the French army, the Mungabans made a forced march and did not stop till night closed in. They encamped around a fountain surrounded by palm trees. Not supposing their prisoner would attempt to escape, they contented themselves with merely binding his hands; and after having fed their horses, and made their supper upon dates, they all slept soundly. As soon as the French prisoner was convinced of the fact, he began to gnaw the cords that bound him, and soon regained the liberty of his hand. He seized a carbine, and took the precaution to provide himself with some dry dates and a little bag of grain, armed with a scimitar, he started off, in the direction of the French army.

In his eagerness to arrive at a place of safety, he urged that already weary horse until the generous animal fell down dead, and left his rider alone in the midst of the desert. For a long time the Frenchman walked on, with the perseverance of a runaway slave, but was at last obliged to stop. The day was finished; notwithstanding the beauty and freshness of oriental nights, he did not feel strength enough to pursue his journey. Having reached a little cluster of palms, which had gladdened his heart at a distance, he laid his head upon a stone and slept, without taking any precaution for his defence.

He was awakened by the pitiless rays of the sun, which fell upon him with intolerable fervor; for in his weariness he had reposed on the opposite side to the morning shadows of the majestic palms. The prospects around him filled with despair. In every direction nothing met his eye but a wide ocean of sand, sparkling and dancing like a flag in the sunshine. The pure brilliancy of the sky left the imagination nothing to desire. Not a cloud obscured its splendor, not a zephyr moved the surface of the desert. The earth and the heavens seemed on fire. There was a mild and joyful joy in the universal stillness! God in all his infinity, seemed present to the soul!

The desolate wanderer thought of the fountain and roses of his own native province, and wept aloud. He clasped the palm, as if it had been a long friend. He sought to relieve the forgetfulness of future solitude. The wild wilderness sent back a sharp sound from the distance, but no echo was awakened. The echo was in his head.

With melancholy steps he walked around the fountain, and in the palm trees sought to find some relief. He discovered on the opposite side a sort of artificial grove, formed by piles of granite. He was astonished to find that the palm woods touched him with dates for fuel, and having being might come that way before they were exhausted. Poking an arrow point of Mungabans, whose wandering he began to have some claims for his nation—or he might hear the note of a wandering caravan—for Napoleon thought him then passing over Egypt. The Frenchman expected a sudden transition from the desert to the valley of the Nile. He crept up to the wall of the grove, and during the day was eating down the same palm trees to find the mouth of the grove against the wild rocks, which would come in the night that to climb at the river flowing at the foot of the palms. Notwithstanding the eagerness produced by four or five days of hunger, he could not finish his fortification during the day, and towards evening the only way there was cut through the ground with a crack that resounded through the desert, as if solid had uttered a deep groan.

But like an heir, who soon crosses to mourn over his parent, he immediately began to strip off the bread and beautiful leaves to form his couch for the night. Fatigued by his exertion and the extreme warmth of the climate, he soon fell into a profound slumber. In the middle of the night his sleep was suddenly disturbed by an extraordinary noise. He raised himself and listened, and amid the deep silence he heard the loud breathing of some powerful animal. The hair started up on his head, and

strained his eyes to the utmost to perceive the object of his terror. He caught the glimpse of two faint yellow lights at a distance from him; he thought it might be an optical delusion, produced by his own earnest gaze; but, as the moon entered the chinks of the cave, he distinctly saw an enormous animal lying about two feet from him. There was not sufficient light to distinguish what species of animal it was, it might be a lion, a tiger, or a crocodile; but the strong odor that filled the cave, left no doubt of the presence of some large and terrible creature.

When the moon rose so as to shine directly upon the opening of the grotto, its beams lighted the beautiful spotted hide of a huge panther! The lion of Egypt slept with her head upon her paws, with the comfortable dignity of a great house dog. Her eyes, which were open from time to time, were now closed. Her face was turned towards the Frenchman. A thousand confused thoughts passed through the soldier's bosom. His first idea was to shoot his enemy through the head; but he saw there was not room enough for that; the ball would inevitably have passed her. He dared not make the slightest movement, lest he should awake her; nothing broke the deep silence but the breath of the panther and the beating of his heart. Twice he put his hand upon his scimitar, but the difficulty of penetrating her hard rough skin made him relinquish the project. To attempt her destruction, and fail in the attempt, would be instant death. At all events, he resolved to wait for daylight. Day came at last, and showed the jaws of the sleeping panther covered with blood.

'She has eaten lately,' said the Frenchman to himself. 'She will not awaken in hunger.'

She was in truth a beautiful monster. The fur on her throat and legs was of a dazzling whiteness; a circle of little dark spots, like velvet, formed pretty bracelets round her paws—her large muscular trial was beautifully white, terminated by black rings; and the soft smooth fur on her body was of a glowing yellow, like unwrought gold, richly shaded with dark brown spots in the form of roses.

This powerful but tranquil hostess reposed in as graceful an attitude as a puss sleeping on a footstool. Her head stretched on her enormous outstretched paws, from which her long, white smellers spread out like silver threads. Had she been in a cage, the Frenchman would certainly have admired the perfect symmetry of her dark form, and the rich contrast of colors, that gave such an imperial brilliancy to her robe, but alone, and in her power, it was a different thing. At the mouth of the cavern he had felt his courage rising with increasing danger, but it was sinking now. The cold sweat poured from his forehead, as he saw the sleeping panther. Considering himself a dead man, he awaited his fate as courageously as he could. When the sun rose, the panther suddenly opened her eyes, stretched out her paws and gasped, showing a frightful row of teeth, and a great tongue as hard and as rough as a file. She then shook herself, and began to wash her bloody paws, passing them from one to time over her ears, like a kitten. 'Very well done,' thought the soldier, who felt his gaiety and courage returning—she does her toilet handsomely.

He seized a dagger which he had taken from one of the Arabs—'Come let us wish each other good-morning,' thought he. At this moment the panther turned her head towards him he suddenly, and earnest gaze upon him.

The fixedness of her bright metallic eyes, and their almost insupportable brilliancy, made the soldier tremble, especially when the mighty beast moved towards him. With great boldness and presence of mind, he looked her directly in the eye, having often heard that great power may be obtained over animals in that manner. When she came up to him, he gently scratched her head and recognized her face. She gradually softened, she began to wag her tail, and at last she purred like a petted cat; but so deep and strong were her notes of joy, that they resounded through the cave like the rolling of a church organ. The Frenchman redoubled his caresses, and when he thought her ferocity was sufficiently tamed he attempted to leave the grotto. The panther made no opposition to his going out, but came bounding after him, lifting up her back, and rubbing against him, like an affectionate kitten. 'She requires a great deal of attention,' said the Frenchman, smiling. He tried to feel

her ears and throat; and perceiving that she was pleased with it, he began to tickle the back of her head with the point of his dagger, hoping to find a favorable opportunity to stab her, but the hardness of the bones made him tremble lest he should not succeed.

The beautiful Sultana of the desert seemed to tempt the courage of her prisoner, by raising her head, stretching out her neck, and rubbing against him. The soldier suddenly thought that to kill her with one blow, he must strike her in the throat. He raised his blade for that purpose; but at that moment she crouched down at his feet looking up in his face with a strange mixture of affection and native fierceness. The poor Frenchman leaned against the tree, eating some dates, and casting his eye anxiously around the desert, to see if no one was coming to free him from his terrible companion, whose strange friendship was so little to be trusted. He offered to feed her with nuts and dates, but she looked upon them with contempt. However, as if sensible of his kind intentions, she licked his shoes and purred.

The idea made him tremble. He looked at the size of the panther. She was three feet high, and four feet long, without including her tail, which was three feet more in length, and as round as a great cudgel.

Her head was as big as a lion's, and her face was distinguished by a peculiar expression of cunning. The cold cruelty of the panther resigned her; but there was likewise something strangely like the countenance of an artful woman, in the gaiety and fondness of the present moment. She had her fill of blood, and she wished to frolic.

During the whole day, if he attempted to walk away, the panther watched him as a dog does his master; and never suffered him to be far out of sight. He discovered the remains of his horse, which had been dragged near the mouth of the cavern, and he easily understood why she had respected his slumbers.

Taking courage from the past, he began to hope he could get along very comfortably with his new companion. He laid himself beside her, in order to conciliate her good opinion. He patted her neck, and she began to wag her tail and purr. He took hold of her paws, felt her ears, rolled her over the grass. She suffered him to do all this; and when he played with her paws, she carefully drew in her claws, lest she should hurt him. The Frenchman again put his hand upon his weapon with a view of plunging it into her throat, but he was still held by the fear that the animal would kill him in agony. Besides he recalled to him an unwillingness to kill her. In the lonely desert, she seemed to him like a friend. His admiration of her gracefulness, beauty, and activity, became mixed with less and less of terror. He actually named her Mignonne, in remembrance of a lady whom he had loved in his youth, and who was abominably jealous of him. By the end of the day, he had become so familiar, with his dangerous situation, that he was almost in love with his exciting penit. He had ever taught the panther her name. She looked up in his face when he called 'Mignonne.'

When the sun went down, she uttered a deep and melancholy cry.

'She is well educated,' exclaimed the soldier. 'She has learnt to say her evening prayer.'

He rejoiced to see the panther stretch herself out in a drowsy attitude.

'That is right, my pretty blonde,' said he. 'You had better go to sleep first.'

He trusted to her activity to escape during her slumber. He waited patiently when she seemed sound asleep, but he had vigorously towards the Nile. The animal not once a quarter of a league bounding after him, when he heard the voice of a long sharp cry.

'My dear Mignonne!' exclaimed the soldier, exclaiming her with enthusiasm, 'our friendship is for life or death?'

He returned his steps. Now that he had a creature that loved him, to whom he could talk, it seemed as if the desert were

Frank Bismarck, who was once a beaver, 'that look of your beautiful eyes thanked me for both'

served, and in a few years after an offer of marriage was made to her by a respectable

on the morrow, wind and weather permitting, in the bark Neptune—Starkey, master

Upon approaching the vessel, which instantly brought a glass of

so I perhaps wrongfully interpreted the ac-

cabins locker.