Huron Signal.

GODERICH, NOV. 30, 1865.

THE UNITED STATES AND MEXICO.

There is seldom a combination of circumstances, however fortuitous, which is so completely adverse that not a single drop of comfort is derivable by those interested. A bad thing might, in most cases, be much worse; and it is an established principle in human nature that hopeful spirits are ever on the look-out for bright spots in what to others seems entirely dark and gloomy. Recognizing this great fact, we are not surprised that the editor of the New York *Tribune* should inform his readers, as he does, that the case of Mexico is not hopeless—that by some process not very lucidly set forth the Monroe doctrine will assert *its lf*, without any appeal to the pockets or the blood of those who profess such an implicit confidence in Manifest Destiny. The reasoning of the *Tribune* is unique. It does not, and in fact cannot truthfully, assert that the Emperor Maximilian will fail in his determined effort to conquer armed opposition; but it hints that his Empire will prove a failure, and why? Maximilian wants money, jewels and the means of keeping up an army. These requisites cannot be supplied by France, because the Mexican enterprise is unpopular in that country—because the Emperor has his hands full, has more irons in the fire than his anvil will bear. "Rome is a problem; Cochin China claims his attention; Algeria is about to rise in rebellion; Japan is not under proper discipline," &c. Under the circumstances, the *Tribune* advises the people of the United States to a "masterly inactivity," because such a course will allow the cause of the usurper to collapse quietly, while, on the contrary, any open help extended to the Republicans would rouse the sense of honor in the French mind, and "France is never niggardly when her honor is concerned. When that is involved, then the last man and the last bayonet." The *Tribune* thinks that a war with France would be war also with England—"for the alliance that assailed Russia is still intact." "It is not," says our contemporary, "for us to speculate upon the "results of such a war. *We do not court "it.* We shall do everything to avoid it. "However that war might end, we do "not see that it would help Juarez. We "have a conquered but not a pacified "South—a South which would be as "likely to assist a foreign army of inva-"sion as assist it. If we stand apart and "allow France and Mexico to fight it "out—Juarez as the upper, and the "French financiers as the nether mill-"stone—Maximilian's power will in time "be ground to powder. But no fighting, "gentlemen!" While we admire the candor that can make such admissions, we think the *Tribune* is quite right in stating that the best policy of the United States is to let Mexico square her own account, and to devote its energies to the development of its own resources. We think it is wrong in comparing the occupation of Mexico with the partition of Poland, the dismemberment of Cracow or the division of Schleswig-Holstein. There is no analogy in the case whatever. The Mexicans have been cursed for many years back with a state of chronic revolution, until neither life nor property were safe, and if even a "Dutch Duke" can restore order and establish a sound government, which Maximilian is doing, he will deserve the thanks of all lovers of law and order. And the friends of the Empire, when comparisons (which are odious) come upon the carpet, can point to the annexation of Texas as a more suspicious case of usurped power. Of course, an American writer would argue that America being for the Americans, according to the Doctrine, they were only taking *their own* when they wrested that little patch called Texas from the Mexicans. In every other respect the *Tribune* is fair enough and we think it is much nearer the truth as felt by thinking men in the States, than those unreasoning fools who are constantly bellowing for war at all hazards—right or wrong. The Great Republic has had enough of war for one half-century, and all reasonable, honest republicans know that it would be awfully wrong to precipitate a fresh one of enormous cost and doubtful results without good and sufficient cause.

A Novel Theory.

We find floating on the surface of the vast sea of newspaper literature, the following from a writer in the *Liverpool Journal*.—The reasoning is not bad, superficially viewed, but when we consider that the writer's premises are false, we must set down his attempt as a very sorry failure:—

Any man, as Iago said to Cassio, may get drunk. Iago was a bad man, but good men will repeat his saying, but not in his invidious sense. Men have got drunk ere now in taverns, and they were not bad men. Men have got drunk even in public-houses, and yet they were not bad men. Men have got drunk in private houses, and they were not bad men. They have got drunk at festive boards, and they were not bad men. They may have got drunk at your table—through no fault of mine, for I never was present—but no bad men ever sat down at your table. Drunkenness is rather a qualified term—very Drunkenness now, enormous as it may appear, is a sign of national greatness. Be not startled. Don't imagine I am going beyond proper bounds. I adhere to a fact. I am about to state a fact, of which you and every well read man in the world is cognizant. The nations which now govern mankind have been nations addicted to the use of alcoholic liquors. We are the greatest people in the world, and we consume still more whiskey, brandy, gin, beer, ale, and porter, than any other people on the earth of the same number, and yet we are the greatest people on earth. It might be much better that we did not consume so much of these, as you consider them, detestable liquors, but that is a question—a very great question. You cannot settle it; I cannot settle it. We cannot have it settled. I am concerned only as to the facts, and you, as a truthful man, must also pay respect to facts. Now, on the other hand, the basest people on earth have been temperate people. I do not by any means desire to lead you to believe they are base because they are temperate. They constitutionally differ from ourselves. Climate may have much to do with it, habit a great deal; but the fact is undoubted, that the less advanced people in Europe are temperate people. All over the East they are very temperate people, and you will hardly contend that they are a civilised people—civilised in our sense of the word. But they are not drunkards. They have no public houses; they have hardly any taverns; they have very few hotels, properly speaking; and although they consume wine, they drink very bad wine that seldom intoxicates. Some in the East, the Chinese for instance, can drink pretty tolerably, and the Chinese, as you are aware, are certainly a superior race to all around them. I don't attach a great deal to this fact, but as a fact it is entitled to your consideration. Our ancestors all loved alcoholic waters, and our ancestors were a very fine people. They were our ancestors, and we are obliged to respect them. We are a fine people because we are their descendants. They had public houses; they had their banquets; the wine cup flowed freely; they drank freely, and they got drunk now and again; but, notwithstanding, they were a great people. They were our fathers. We are a great people, and we do still indulge in intoxicating drinks. If you have any doubt upon this point, just look at the last returns of the Board of Trade, just look at the returns of the Excise department, you will find that we are social people; and mind me, Mr. Cropper, there can be no social people where the board is not well replenished with those viands and those drinks which, through habit, if you like, or through constitution if you like it better, we are addicted to.

An Editor in Luck.

Editors, generally speaking, enjoy a very diversified experience. One day, for, perhaps, speaking their minds freely, they are treated to the vilest abuse—backed up at times by an oaken cudgel, the next they may be feasted and petted to their heart's content. One week they receive any number of presents—the next they are classed with the vilest of rascals. This experience is unavoidable when a man happens to have opinions of his own and is not afraid to express them in language suitable to the occasion. It is the lot of this class of mortals to dabble in everything, from quack medicine puffing up to the most abstruse principles of political economy, and it is, of course, no matter of surprise that they sometimes come in collision with the powers that be, in a very painful manner, at others in such a way as to secure for them the sympathy of all good men. Brother Raymond, of the N. Y. *Times*, has fallen into the latter category. A few days ago he had the boldness to expose the Fenian humbug in terms more true than palatable to the *brotherhood*, whereupon he was visited by a Mr. or Major *Killian*, with a request that he would either retract or consent to meet the head centre, President Mahony, at some retired spot, there to settle the matter by single combat. Just think of it. An editor challenged by a *real, live* President! O, happiness! Oh, lucky Raymond, what have you done beyond your fellows that such an honor should be conferred upon you! When Mr. Raymond was told that if he would neither retract nor fight he would be published in the columns of some contemporary, his answer was to the effect that he would rather fill two columns than one coffin, and in that we think he was quite right. To be challenged by a President is happiness enough for one time; to be killed outright by an executive bullet would be more than even an editor could bear with becoming modesty.

PLUM TREE IN BLOSSOM.—Singular as it may appear in this frozen Canada of ours, blossoms have made their appearance in the latter part of November. A few days ago we were shown strawberry blossoms, we have seen the yellow dandelion flowers within the past week, and in our own garden a lilac tree has leaved out afresh, the new shoots having grown two inches in length. But, most remarkable of all, we have before us as we write a plum branch bearing a beautiful white blossom. A day or two ago, Mr. Walter Dick of this town noticed something white upon one of his plum trees, and on examination, found that it had put forth a profusion of blossoms. Poor wee things, you have been born to trouble and untimely death. This morning a cold snowflake lies upon each tiny breast, and, like the many frail human flowers of which you are fit representatives, there is *no hope* for you. But, think of it, old Pioneers of Huron! In the early winters and late springs of the olden time, did you ever expect to see the time when sweet blossoms would peep out within three weeks of Christmas?

MISSIONARY SERVICES.

On Sabbath morning last, Rev. L. Taylor, D. D. preached a missionary sermon in the Wesleyan Church to a very large and intelligent audience, which listened delightedly for upwards of an hour to one of the most splendid discourses ever heard in Goderich. Rev. R. Whiting delivered an excellent sermon in the evening. The Missionary Meeting took place on the following Monday evening, when the church was again densely crowded. On the platform besides the chairman, John Mosely, Esq., we noticed Rev'ds. Messrs. Hadwin, Shaw, Brewster, Whiting and Taylor. After a few short but appropriate addresses from the other ministers, Mr. Taylor arose amid applause and enchained the attention of his hearers for more than an hour in one of his characteristic addresses. It was not a finished oratorical effort, but between the eccentric flashes which darted hither and thither, were introduced passages of real eloquence which could not but stir the soul and charm the intellect of every one present. Mr. Taylor has travelled extensively, read a great deal, and studied human nature in every variety of aspect. Hence he has the rare faculty of carrying with him large audiences. In this respect he is admirably qualified for the position in which he has been placed by the Wesleyan Church, while his broad liberality endears him to the adherents of other denominations. We may mention that the subscriptions and collections on this occasion amounted to $123.30, being more than was collected last year altogether.

Improvements in Goderich.

It is pleasing to note the fact that our town begins to improve with the dawn of better times. For a few years past building has been almost at a stand-still, for the very good reason that people required all the money they could command to keep business afloat. We have tided over the time of trial, however, remarkably well, and our merchants, feeling easier in pocket, are beginning to extend themselves a little, and the result is that a number of new buildings are in progress of erection, which, when completed, will be permanent ornaments to the town. On the corner of Colborne street and the Square, Mr. W. M. Savage has filled up an ugly gap with a splendid three-story brick building. It is intended for a first-class store, and promises to be one of the best buildings in town. The site is a capital one for business, and we have no doubt the investment will prove remunerative. We hope to see the time—and that before long—when the ground between this building and North street will be covered by a row of stores in a similar style of architecture. On the corner of Hamilton street and the Square, Messrs. R. & G. F. Stewart and J. C. McIntosh are erecting a brick block two stories in height, which will be admirably adapted to the purposes in view, namely a general store and a gunsmith's shop, respectively. This will fill another corner of our square very nicely, and we sincerely wish the young men engaged in the enterprise every success in their undertaking. Upon his property fronting on East street, Mr. Crabb is fitting up in elegant style a brick building intended to be used by the highly respectable and influential Mailland Lodge of A. F. & A. M. as a Masonic Hall. On the site of the buildings burned last winter Messrs Wm. Story and John Blake have erected good, solid brick structures, every precaution being taken this time to guard against accident by fire. We are glad to see that our old neighbor Story, who has never, during the past eighteen years, been very far from the *Signal* office, is now comfortably re-established, with a better shop, and, apparently, a still larger stock of every article in his line. On Hamilton street, Mr. Wm. Acheson has built a neat and substantial frame structure, which he now occupies as a saddle and harness shop and private residence. The number of private residences going up this fall and being completed is not very large, but a few of them are well-worthy of notice. Prominent amongst these is the new residence of Mr. Cattle on the corner of Elgin and Stanley streets. It is a large brick building, two stories in height, modern in style and finish, and presents externally a very neat and handsome appearance, while the large kitchen, &c., proclaims it to be internally well adapted to secure the comfort and happiness of a family, in so far as material things can contribute to that desirable end. The foundations of one or two other good private residences are being dug out, and we have no doubt that a good deal of work will be ready for our masons early next spring.

Thus it will be seen that Goderich is making substantial progress, and if a proper spirit of enterprise is manifested there is no reason why it should not grow faster within the next five years than at any former period.

There is one matter that we must mention again before closing this short article, and that is, the improvement of the square. It is a disgrace that such a beautiful spot should be left in its present bare and unsightly state. We have gentlemen amongst us of much taste and experience in horticulture, and we know many of them would be glad to lend a helping hand if a move were once made. It is, perhaps, too late to do anything this fall, but arrangements might easily be made for going on with the work as soon as spring opens. A small grant from the Council and (if that should prove insufficient) a subscription list freely circulated would raise the funds necessary, the work of planting could be done in a week or two, and in a very few years we should have the prettiest square in Upper Canada. It is a very important matter and we do trust it will not be lost sight of.

COUNCIL MEETING.

The Town Council held its regular meeting on Friday evening last. His Worship the Mayor presiding. Present, Messrs. Gibbons, Booth, Clifford, Runciman, McKay, Cameron, Hays and Longworth.

The minutes of last meeting were read and approved.

Petitition of John Whitlock asking for remission of taxes on account of sickness.—Granted.

From Mary Connelly, wife of a man now in gaol, asking for relief. On motion of Messrs. Cameron and Gibbons, Mr Smaill was instructed to bail Connelly out.

Letter from Mr. Elijah Moore, Chief Engineer of Fire Department, stating that 300 feet of new hose was wanted for the Engine. It was agreed that 100 feet of hose be purchased by the Fire Committee in the meantime.

The poll tax of certified firemen was ordered to be remitted.

The taxes of two old men (over age) were remitted.

Petition of Margaret McDonald asking for relief was referred to the member of the relief committee for George's Ward.

A petition of Sheriff McDonald asking for remission of taxes on lot 1010 on account of the river undermining the warehouse was referred to the Court of Revision.

A case of destitution was brought before the Council by the Mayor, and the Relief Committee resuscited in or order to meet such cases. It was understood that no single member should grant permanent support without bringing such cases before the Council.

A proposition from Mr. Crabb offering the room occupied temporarily by the Council for the use of the Council together with use of the large Concert Room for public meetings for $50.00 per year, was accepted conditionally.

An old account of Mr. Cameron's for amount of expenses incurred by him in the case of Jane Longworth *vs.* the Corporation of Goderich, was settled by an order for the payment of £8 0 0.

It was resolved that $8.00 be granted to assist in making a gravel side-walk on Newgate street, and the Street Inspector was directed to improve the road leading to the Drill Shed.

The returning officers for the ensuing elections were appointed same as last year, after which the Council adjourned.

THE CONCERT

Given in the Victoria Hall last night (Thursday 23) in aid of the funds of Knox's Church, was, in the most important particular, a complete success—we mean, of course, with regard to the amount of money realized. The Hall was densely crowded, there being at least 500 persons present, and the assembly was a most respectable one. The performance of the musicians and singers of the evening was diversified, some of the pieces going off tame enough, we are sorry to say. This, no doubt, was owing more to the character of the selections made than to any real inefficiency on the part of the performers, because it is well-known that a charming song for the private parlor will frequently fall dead in a crowded hall. Miss Gillespie's performance upon the piano forte proved her to be a brilliant and accomplished executant. Indeed, her rendering of some of the more difficult operatic pieces has seldom been equalled in Goderich. Miss Watson also played and sang charmingly, and was loudly applauded, especially in "the march of the Cameron Men." Messrs. D. Watson and H. Reid give "Evangeline," "I'm lonely since my mother died," &c., very effectively and were *encored* more than once. Mr., Mrs., and the Misses Graham, accompanied by Mr. Bull, gave several pieces in their best style and several of our local amateurs rendered valuable aid. At the close of the concert the musicians and a few others partook of an excellent repast, which had been provided in another room by the ladies of the congregation. After supper, Mr. Ure, in the name of his people, thanked those who had so kindly volunteered their services on the occasion. The grand piano forte used was borrowed from H. Macdermott, Esq. We understand that the proceeds of the concert will foot up to at least $140.00.

☞ Business is very lively at our port just now. Besides the Goderich fleet, a number of American vessels have been in during the past week. The accumulation of goods at the elevator is very large, the sheds being crammed with salt from Saginaw, fish from the Islands, goods for northern ports, &c. The fishing this season has been remarkably successful, and the traders are making a 'good thing' out of their transactions owing to the rise in price and great demand for fish. It is pleasing to note that this section deals in Saginaw salt almost exclusively. Our Valley friends are good customers, and if they consume our produce, it is only fair that we should use their salt and lumber.

☞ The County Council meets on Tuesday next

☞ They are beginning to stir in municipal matters in Toronto in view of the approaching elections.

☞ Mr. Cameron, the deputy-reeve of Stanley, died last week.

A poor creature named Wm. Harris, who kept a tavern in Kinloss, was found dead on the road near Dungannon last week. Whiskey!

☞ A correspondent writes us in hot haste to stop an advertisment for a teacher, as he is "inundated with applications," about twenty having been received already. So much for advertising.

SNOW.—The ground to-day (28th) is covered with snow for the second time this year. The weather, however, is soft and warm, and we expect to see the fields bare again in a few hours. Navigation is still going on vigorously.

PASSED.—We notice with pleasure that Mr. B. L. Doyle of this town has passed the necessary examination in a very creditable manner and is now admitted to practice as a barrister. His card appears in our advertising columns.

☞ A large party of gentleman from Ashfield, being in town yesterday to give and hear explanations of a certain matter, settled a very complicated dispute amicably by indulging in a free fight. A few glasses of "Rye" afterwards affected a mutual reconciliation, and the party started for home in a state of complete happiness.

MISSIONARY MEETING.—Missionary services in aid of Episcopal Methodist Missions will be held in the Episcopal Methodist Church, Goderich, on Sunday next, at the usual hours. Sermons by Rev. J. W. Yokom of Seaforth. The annual Missionary Meeting will be held on the Monday evening following. Rev'ds. Wm. Yokom, J. W. Jackson, M. Dimick and resident ministers are expected to deliver addresses.

CORRECTION.—Our reporter was informed that the name of the young man who stole the horse a few days ago from Mr. Joy was Michael *Mack*, and as it came from the owner of the animal, we did not hesitate to use it. It now seems, however, that Michael Mack (or Macnamara) had nothing to do with the theft at all—and is a young man, we are told, of good character. We regret that his name should have been used so freely, but the responsibility must rest with a man who was foolish enough to misstate facts in such a singular manner, and at whose request we publish this contradiction.

☞ A "special" to the New York *World* says that the Government of the United States have been, for some time, obtaining information with regard to the Reciprocity Treaty, and that negotiations with the British ambassador will be opened as soon as possible, for a discussion of the "propriety of making a new treaty."

No doubt a strenuous effort will be made by the Canadian authorities and by our Railway men to obtain a renewal of the Treaty, but success is very doubtful, and we think it would be well for the business and agricultural community to be prepared for the worst, so that new channels of trade may be opened without delay.

WHITE FISH.—On and after the 22nd, until the 1st Dec., it is unlawful for persons to take or to have in their possession white fish. The Fishery Superintendent is determined strictly to enforce the law, and parties interested would act wisely to govern themselves accordingly.

Mack, the horsethief, was seen at Stratford station a day or two ago by Mr. Polley, of this town, who pointed him out to a constable, but the rascal, who has a natural gift for dodging, saw what was up at once, and made for the woods like a deer. He will be nabbed some of these fine days, no doubt.

☞ We are sorry to learn that a small black bug is seriously damaging fall wheat in the lower part of this County, and that the fields in this vicinity are suffering from the same cause. This is something new in the wheat-growing experience of our farmers, and we trust some intelligent person will examine into the nature and habits of the pest. Perhaps the remarkably fine weather this fall has something to do in hatching the larvæ that should have lain dormant until spring; if so, a good hard frost will probably exercise a baneful influence upon the fledgelings.

LIBERALITY.—The *Free Press* is glad to find, from the report of the City Council proceedings of Monday night, that David Glass, Esq., Mayor of London, has generously presented the Hospital Relief Committee with the whole of the Police Court fees received by him as sitting Magistrate in the Police Court during the past year. Such a handsome and generous gift deserves to be duly acknowledged, and many a poor, sick person will receive assistance and comfort who might otherwise continue in want and misery.

The same paper also points out that Mayor Glass has discharged the duties of his office most efficiently during the year, and after their hard experience in Mayors the Londoners can't do better than re-elect Mr. Glass.

To the Editor of the HURON SIGNAL:

SIR,—Will you kindly allow me, through the medium of your paper, to express the satisfaction I felt last evening while attending the Wesleyan meeting.—Passing over the many good speeches that were made I refer directly to the thrilling incident of the evening—the remarks of the Rev. L Taylor—they were perfectly electrical—his touching pathos, his vivid and graphic descriptions of country and human life, his exhaustless fund of anecdote collected from every part of the globe render an hour or two passed in his company truly refreshing. There was only one mar to the entertainment, caused by the unnecessary and unfair remarks made by the chairman against the English Church. Unfair, because they could not easily be refuted then and there.—But that two persons could have attended the English Church year after year, listened to her beautiful litany, to her collects and prayers, repeated Sunday after Sunday and yet not know that "Our Saviour the Lord Jesus" had ever walked on this earth is "passing strange," to say the least; that is, supposing them to speak the English language. Neither, it appears, did those same unfortunates ever hear of the "Flood." Well, as some of our learned Geologists also doubt that event, it tends to prove that extreme ignorance and extreme science are not so very far apart after all, or, rather, that "The wisdom of this world is foolishness with God," and, as I believe there is no creed actually free from error, let Charity cover them all.

Believing, Mr. Editor, that you are for "fair play" I thought I might trouble you with these few lines.

CHARITY.

SOUTH HURON.

(From our own correspondent.)

November 25th, 1865.

I notice in yesterday's *Semi-Weekly*, that the Fall Wheat is being damaged in the vicinity of Goderich, similar to what I informed you, it was in this South part of the County. I had occasion, this week, to take a trip to London, going via Seaforth, by rail, and returning per gravel road, by stage, I paid particular attention to the appearance of the wheat fields on the route. In the South portions of Stanley, and North parts of Hay, the wheat looks very bad indeed—it is some hurt in Tuckersmith, and less or more so till near Stratford, although little damage, has as yet been done. I noticed withered blades, indicating the presence of the pest, as far as St. Marys; but from there into London, the wheat fields are green and luxuriant. On returning, I could detect nothing wrong till I was 25 miles this side of London—the aspect of the fields then began to change and grow gradually worse, till I came in sight of Lake Huron. As you may not have seen the pest, I send you some stalks of wheat, in which you will find him at work, and see the mischief it is doing. I hope you have some friend sufficiently posted up in insectology who will be able, at least, to tell us the name of this pest, and something of its habits, whether it is an old or a new enemy.

STANLEY.

(From our own Correspondent.)

A Ploughing Match came off on Wednesday the 15th inst., on the farm of Mathew Johnson, Esq., Bayfield Road, the funds for which were subscribed by the merchants, mechanics, hotel-keepers and farmers in and around Varna. The ploughmen were all second class men, or men who had never taken a prize at any ploughing match. The boys were 17 years and under. There were 12 entries in all—5 men and 7 boys. The day was all that could be wished for, being more like the middle of April than the middle of November, and both men and boys went in with a will which at once showed they were determined to do their best. The ploughing of the men was excellent, and would have compared favorably with older hands, they being all of them mere lads, who by seeing the Society's ploughing matches, have for some time back been trying their hand on the right system, and have not labored in vain. The work of the boys also was second to none ever seen in Stanley done by boys. Anderson and Reid, who took the first and second prizes, have just completed their 14th year, and we are not certain how many of the old hands present could have acquitted themselves better. There is nothing that has improved so much thro' the influence of the Township Society as ploughing. One does not now see the zig zag, cut and cover, rough and tumble furrow of days gone by: all seem to be striving to get at the right system, more especially young, and ploughing matches above all things should be encouraged. The hospitality of Mr. Johnson was praiseworthy; the judges and managers of the affair partook of a most substantial dinner, and the ploughmen were served with refreshments during the day and dinner when the work was done, to which without coaxing they did ample justice. The entries were as follows:—

MEN.—John Boles, Iron...John Gray.
Jas. Mitchell " ...Wm Simpson.
John Duncan " ...D. McTavish.
Thos. Boles " ...John Gray.
John Mitchell " ...Wm Simpson.

BOYS.—Neil McFarlane, Iron, W Simpson
Wm Reid, Iron...Wm Simpson.
Sam'l Laing " Wm Simpson.
Geo Mitchell, Wood, do
Thos M'Clymont, Wood, Brabason
Alex Duncan, "
John Anderson, Iron, John Gray.

The successful competitors were:—

MEN.—Jas. Mitchell, first; John Mitchell, second; Thos. Boles, third; John Boles, fourth.

BOYS.—John Andersor, first; Wm. Reid, second; Thos. McClymont, third; Neil McFarlane, fourth.

The judges were, John Johnson, sen., John Watts, and George Forrest, Esqs.

GEO. LAING, Sec'y.

Varna, 20th Nov., 1865.

WROXETER, Nov 20th, 1865.

CORONER'S INQUEST.—A coroner's inquest was held on the body of James Hannah, on the 9th inst. in this village. This has been one of the most disgraceful inquests held in the County of Huron, got up, it is believed, solely for lucrative purposes, and to injure the attending physician by the coroner and that doctor who made a verbal and a written midnight requisition signed by himself. It is a great pity that the government should appoint such men as coroners as the one above referred to, who does not understand the English language. We think that no man can properly fill the office of a coroner but a licensed physician. How can such a coroner question a medical witness so as to give a jury a correct idea of the case, and also to sum up the evidence and charge a jury properly while under the influence of ardent spirits. We think it high time for the good men of this county to look after such demagogues. This is not the first or second of the kind that has occurred in this corner of the county.

GOGGLES.

CLINTON.

27th Nov, 1865.

To the Editor of the HURON SIGNAL:

SIR,—I would beg to correct an error in the account furnished you by an "English man" of the reopening of St. Paul's church in this village. In speaking of the sermon preached in the morning by the Bishop of the Diocese, he uses the following language:

"The necessity for clerical visits, and the attendance of clergy when parishioners were at the point of death, were also spoken of as not the essential matter to be thought of," &c.

I am sorry that your correspondent should have formed this idea of his Lordship's remarks, and that he forces me to state, as the incumbent of the Church, that his strictures on the sermon are more fanciful than correct. His Lordship did with his usual faithfulness preach "Christ as the sinner's *only* mode of salvation, and the Christian's *only* comfort," but in no way did he speak against pastoral visiting, or end his hearers to suppose that he undervalued sacramental blessings.

Yours, &c.,

JAS. CARMICHAEL.

☞ A freight train on the Grand Trunk railway ran off the track between St. Mary's and Lucan on Monday. A number of cars were badly smashed, and a good deal of freight broken and destroyed. A shipment of hogs from the Western States, to the number of about two hundred, was on board, and strange to relate, nearly all the animals were killed. The scene of the wreck is described as horrifying in the extreme, as might easily be imagined amid such a wholesale slaughter of live stock.

ARRIVAL OF MILITARY STORES.—The steamer St Lawrence has arrived in Montreal, from the Tower of London and Woolwich direct. She brings a large quantity of military stores of all kinds, more especially heavy material for the artillery service; among other things a number of carriages for naval guns. The whole of these warlike implements are entirely new, of the best pattern, the strongest make, and many of them of large proportions. It is rumored in Montreal that two regiments of infantry will be sent to Canada at once, if not more. The number of regulars at home is nearly 80,000, and five regiments are on the way home from New Zealand, so that strong reinforcements can easily be spared if necessary.

COOL THIEF.—On Thursday morning some person entered the carpenter shop of Mr. Gie in Middleton, Salem, and stole therefrom an entire kit of tools. The burglar drove a horse and buggy to the shop, which was but a short distance from the house, and having lighted the lamp proceeded very coolly to gather up and pack the tools in his buggy. The small tools he placed in a grain bag, which he found in the shop and emptied for the purpose. The tools were valued at about $70. Mr. Middleton has gone in search of the thief, and we sincerely hope he will secure him, that he may receive that punishment which he so justly merits.—[Elora Observer.

Settlement of the Back Country

The *Spectator*, a short time since, contained the following. The meed of praise it accords Mr. Robinson is deserved, and it is to be hoped the company referred to will endeavor to carry out, as fully as possible, the conditions of the sale:—

"The Commissioner of Crown Lands in his reports to the legislature in 1861, stated, 'That the advantages to the country of procuring the sale of ten newly surveyed township, in the very centre of the great tract of land laying between the Ottawa and the St. Lawrence, cannot be over estimated.'

"This assertion of the commissioner exciting much attention at the time in Quebec, the Hon Mr. Crawford, in his place in the Legislative Council, inquired of the Hon. Mr. Vankoughnet, whether the sale alluded to in his report would be carried out. In reply to which that gentleman said, 'That the sale of ten townships to an English company, as mentioned in his annual report of the Crown Lands, would be successfully carried out, thanks chiefly to the exrraordinary zeal and energy shown by Mr. J. B. Robinson, the junior member for Toronto.'

"This extract from the commissioner's report, as well as his answer to the Hon. Mr. Crawford, we set aside at the time, saying to ourselves—will this sale, so much talked of, ever be completed, and the country get the purchase money? Mr. Galt, in his last financial statement, has answered our doubts, and we confess on this point at any rate to have been agreeably surprised. 'The territorial revenue of last year,' he said, 'was $830,000 but included in that there was a considerable payment for the Canada Land and Emigration company, which bought a large quantity of land in the district between Lake Huron and Ottawa, and completed their payment of nearly $200,000 in the past year.'

"As far, therefore, as the purchase and the payment of money ($200,000) into the treasury of the country is concerned, the sale is completed; it only now remains for the company to observe their other stipulations of settling the townships within the time agreed upon, which we hope they may be able to do, and which, judging from what we hear of the mills they have erected, and the improvements they have made, there is every prospect of their doing.

"We allude to this subject now, in common justice to the Hon. Mr. Robinson, to whom, as mentioned in the House by the Commissioner of Crown Lands, the province is indebted for this large and important sale.

"We believe he is the only one amongst us all, of whom it can, upon such undisputed authority, be said, that by his individual exertions the country has received in cash the large sum of $200,000, to say nothing of the benefits we shall reap hereafter from the settlement of such an extensive tract in a locality, where of all other for the permanent strength and prosperity of the country, a flourishing settlement is most required."

Crop Prospects.

An extended tour through Western Canada enables the writer to report most satisfactorily upon the condition of the growing crop of wheat. Inquiries in the various sections of the country result in the conviction that very much more than the usual quantity of winter wheat has been sold. Notwithstanding the fact that very large deliveries of grain have been made throughout the season, farmers have been busily engaged in preparing an unusual quantity of land for the reception of seed, and we believe we are not exaggerating the fact, when we state that the area now under winter wheat is at least one half greater than at this time last year. The weather has been exceedingly favorable, and the plant never looked more promising than at the present moment. The success of the midge proof wheat last harvest was so completely demonstrated, that seed of this description has been almost universally adopted. This grain is certainly somewhat inferior to the fine white wheat which Canada has hitherto produced, but what is lacked in quantity is more than made up by the certainty of a full crop. Besides, as we once before observed, it is not all improbable that the coarseness of the grain will be improved by the influences of the climate and soil of Canada. It is safe to say that never before, at this season of the year, was there a greater certainty of a good crop of winter wheat than at the present moment, and the country may be congratulated on the prospect. The extreme mildness of the season has enabled farmers to get forward very rapidly their preparation for the spring crops. Very much more than the usual extent of ploughing has been accomplished; and it we should happen to have an early spring, we should not be surprised if spring grains were sown to an extent at least fifty per cent greater than last year. The success of farmers during the year, and the high prices which every product has realized, have not only put them in funds, but has stimulated them to greater exertion, and the result cannot fail to largely increase the productive power of the country.—[Trade Review.

Curious Mishap—A Young Man Boxed up Alive.

A very singular accident occurred yesterday at the piano ware rooms of J. Baner & Co., in Broadway, by which a young man named George Sonne, who is an employee of the establishment, was seriously injured and narrowly escaped dislocation of the neck. So remarkable are the facts of the case, that we give them in detail as related by an eye witness. At noon yesterday, when left in charge of the packing room, young Sonne suffering from great fatigue and possibly overcome by sleepiness, concluded for a nap into a box containing a partially packed up right piano designed for shipment to Col. B. Lamar, of Wilmington, N. C. Those who are familiar with the construction of the "upright," will understand that when placed in a box for transportation, an open space exists above the key board and in front of the elevation. Into this narrow bed, where straw had been put to guard against marring the young man crept for a quiet nooning, and, being excessively weary, he soon fell into a deep and heavy slumber. He was missed when the packers returned, but his whereabouts not suspected. The lid of the box went on noiselessly with screws, was placed in position and secured without disturbing him, the package finally marked and swung off into the hatchway as ill luck would have it, with the body head downwards. In this position and in a half smothered condition, the youth found himself rudely awakened. It was long before he could make himself heard by his fellow workmen, and the case had reached a truck in waiting below before the noise he made with cries of distress were fully understood. Even then, although the fellow was relieved as soon as possible, some moments, of necessity, elapsed before he could be got out, and then insensibility had resulted. Though bruised about the head and shoulders, badly strained in the back, and nearly suffocated, he finally revived, and was carefully conveyed to his home at Harlem.

Physicians who gave him a hasty but tolerably thorough examination, before he left the warerooms, do not regard his injuries as necessarily dangerous, though they are quite severe, and his escape is little less than miraculous.—[N. Y. World, 15th.

Blasting Oil a new Explosive Material.

The explosion in New York on Saturday morning last, has naturally excited a great deal of attention, because it has developed a new explosive material, much more powerful than gunpowder. It is properly termed a blasting oil, discovered by Dr. Nobel, a German chemist and is composed of nitric acid and glycerine. It is represented to have from five to eight times the explosive power of gunpowder. It is insoluble in water, and in no wise injured by being immersed in any liquid. It will not evaporate, nor will it explode when touched with a light or a coal of fire. It will, however, explode under intense heat of not less than 300 degrees, Fahrenheit. It detonates principally by concussion. If some of this blasting oil be poured upon an anvil and struck violently with a hammer it will explode, but only that portion will explode which was directly under the hammer. It is more expensive than gunpowder, but as it has from five to eight times the power, it is much cheaper in mining operations, and not being affected or injured by water, it is really a very valuable discovery.

It would not do to use with artillery or muskets, as it is not so convenient to handle as gunpowder, but in blasting it is unequalled. It is unquestionably the most powerful explosive material that ever was invented. It is, estimated that had Gen. Grant been aware of its existence at the time the famous Peters burg mine was laid, and had he placed five tons of this blasting oil, instead of five tons of gunpowder, in the mine, the explosion would have destroyed the whole city of Petersburg, and blown down all the forts on that side of General Lee's line.

The New York journals furnish such marvelous stories of this nitro-glycerine oil that one would think that the little candle box which exploded in front of the Wyoming hotel, must have been one of the infernal instruments which Satan used to make a breach in the lofty walls of Heaven, in his famous campaign against the Almighty.—*Daily Wisconsin.*

The Lord Mayor of London recently received a letter which contained the following:—"I hope you will read this and remember the danger you stand in. You are never safe now. Any day the papers may be full of your death, like that of President Lincoln. Many a better man than you has had to die suddenly. May the Lord have mercy upon your poor soul. Time is near."

Mexico and Central America.

The execution of General Ortega, Salinas and other officers, in accordance with Maximilian's decree of Oct. 3rd, is confirmed. It is stated that General Riva, Palacees and Alvarez have ordered all the French, Belgian and Austrian prisoners held by them to be shot in retaliation. The reported defeat of General Figuero, by the Imperialists, is declared false. A late Matamoras Ranchero claims that the liberals have been badly cut up, and says that General Rinza and Galinda were killed, and Cortinas and Hinagoza and Col. Garza wounded. The same paper announces the arrival of a number of transports at Vera Cruz with French troops, part of which would be sent to Matamoras. The arrival of the French squadron at the mouth of the Rio Grande is reported. It is reported by the correspondent of the *Times* at Matamoras that the liberals raised the siege of Matamoras on the night of the 8th and departed to unknown regions. No French troops had yet arrived at Matamoras. News from Peru leads to the belief that the next steamer will bring decided news of success or failure of the revolution. The revolutionists have arrived near Lima. The Government troops had marched out to give them battle. There is nothing from Central America.

The Volunteers for the Front.

The Canada Gazette of Saturday contains a militia general order, calling out nine volunteer companies for such period as the Governor deems necessary. One company is to be taken from each of the following places:—Quebec, Montreal, Ottawa, Morrisburgh, Toronto, Port Hope, London, Hamilton and Woodstock. The pay of the officers per day will be as follows:—Lieut.-Cols., $4 80; Majors, $3 90; Paymasters, $3 05; Captains, $2 82; Lieutenants, $1 58; Ensigns, $1 28. The pay of the non commissioned officers and privates will be:—Sergt.-Majors, 50c; Sergeants, 35c; Corporals 30c; Privates, 25c. This is, in every case, in addition to the rations. There are some complaints that 25 cents per day is too small remuneration for the privates. It is, however, about as much as the British soldiers get. In some, at least, of the towns which are sending companies, no difficulty has been experienced in filling up the companies at that rate of pay. If the country were called upon to put a large force in the field, our taxpayers would find the twenty-five cents per diem a heavy enough burden.

The "general order" enjoins the officers in command of the companies which are sent to the front, to hold their men in readiness to march at a moment's notice to prevent predatory raids.

The Ottawa battery left that city on Friday. The Port Hope company is to leave on Wednesday evening for Windsor.—[Globe.

A BIG STORY.—The latest Munchausen story was raised by a boy who was begging in the streets of Plymouth the other day. He said he was a cabin boy on board an American liner, and for some of his mischievous pranks was headed up in a water cask, with only the bung hole to breathe through. On the following night a squall came up, the ship went down with all on board, except himself, the cask containing him having rolled over into the sea, on a sudden lurch of the vessel. Fortunately it kept "bung up," and after thirty hours floating about he was cast on the coast, where, after he had made desperate efforts to release himself, he gave himself up to die. Some cows strolling along the beach were attracted to the cask, and, in switching around it, one of them accidently slipped her tail into the bung hole, which the boy grasped immediately, and kept fast holding with admirable resolution. The cow started off, and after running about three hundred yards the cask struck again at the rock and broke to pieces. After wandering about for several days he hailed a vessel and was taken on board and carried to Falmouth, from whence he proceeded to Plymouth.—[Western Press.

HOW DIFFERENT NATIONS EAT.—The Maldavian Islanders eat alone. They retire into the most hinder parts of their houses, and then draw down the cloths that serve as blinds to their windows, that they may eat unobserved. On the contrary